

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

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SEGA

KNUCKLES

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE ECHIDNA



SPAZZ PENDERS 98

**PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • GALAN
GROSSMAN • WILLIAMS • PEPOY**

The background of the cover is a solid orange color with a white brick pattern. Overlaid on this are white line-art sketches of several characters: Knuckles at the top center, Amy Rose on the right, and Sonic the Hedgehog at the bottom center. The text is arranged in a central column.

KNUCKLES™
BOOK SIXTEEN

REUNIONS

KEN PENDERS: WRITER

MANNY GALAN: PENCILER

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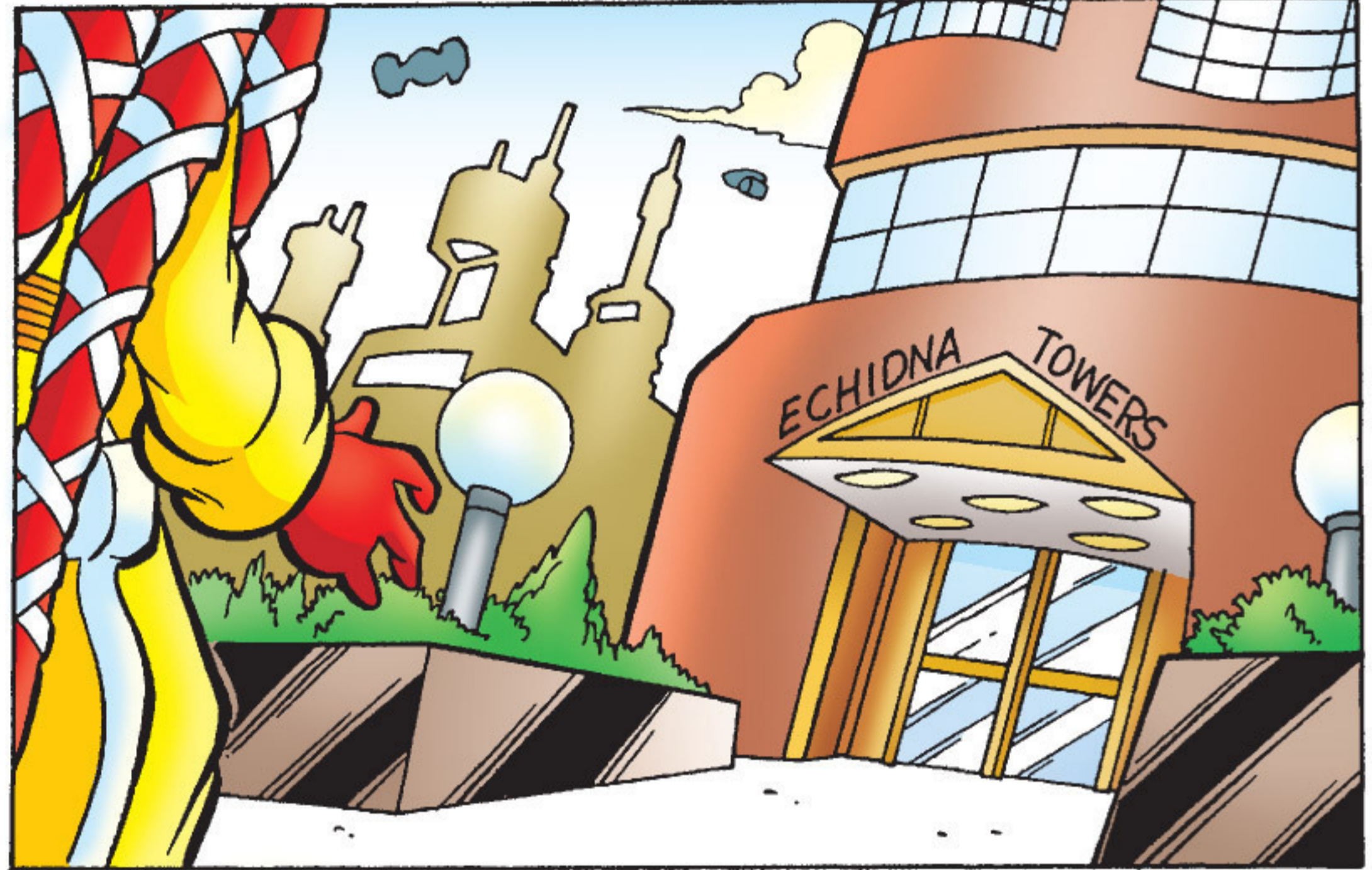
RICHARD GOLDWATER: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES,
THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND
RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING
ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL
FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO
WOULD THREATEN IT FROM WITHIN, HE IS NONE OTHER
THAN KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

**WHEN WE LAST SAW OUR HEROES, THE CHAOTIX HAD
WITNESSED THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT CEREMONY OF
THEIR FRIEND CHARMY, WHO REMAINED BEHIND AS
PRINCE OF HIS OWN PEOPLE WHILE ESPIO, MIGHTY,
VECTOR AND JULIE-SU RETURNED TO THEIR
HOMES ON THE FLOATING ISLAND.**

**MEANWHILE, DEEP WITHIN HAVEN, LOCKE AND SABRE
WITNESSED KNUCKLES' HARNESSING POWER BEYOND
BELIEF BEFORE VANISHING FROM SIGHT, PRESUMABLY
RETURNING TO THE FLOATING ISLAND AFTER
HIS DISCOVERY OF ALBION.**

**NOW, AS A NEW DAY DAWNS, THOUGHTS TURN NOT
TO THOSE OF EXCITEMENT AND ADVENTURE, BUT OF
FEELINGS OF LONGING AND SPENDING TIME WITH
THOSE ONE CHERISHES, AS WE FIND LARA-LE
THIS MORNING IN THE SANCTITY OF THE AURORIUM...**



KNUCKLES™

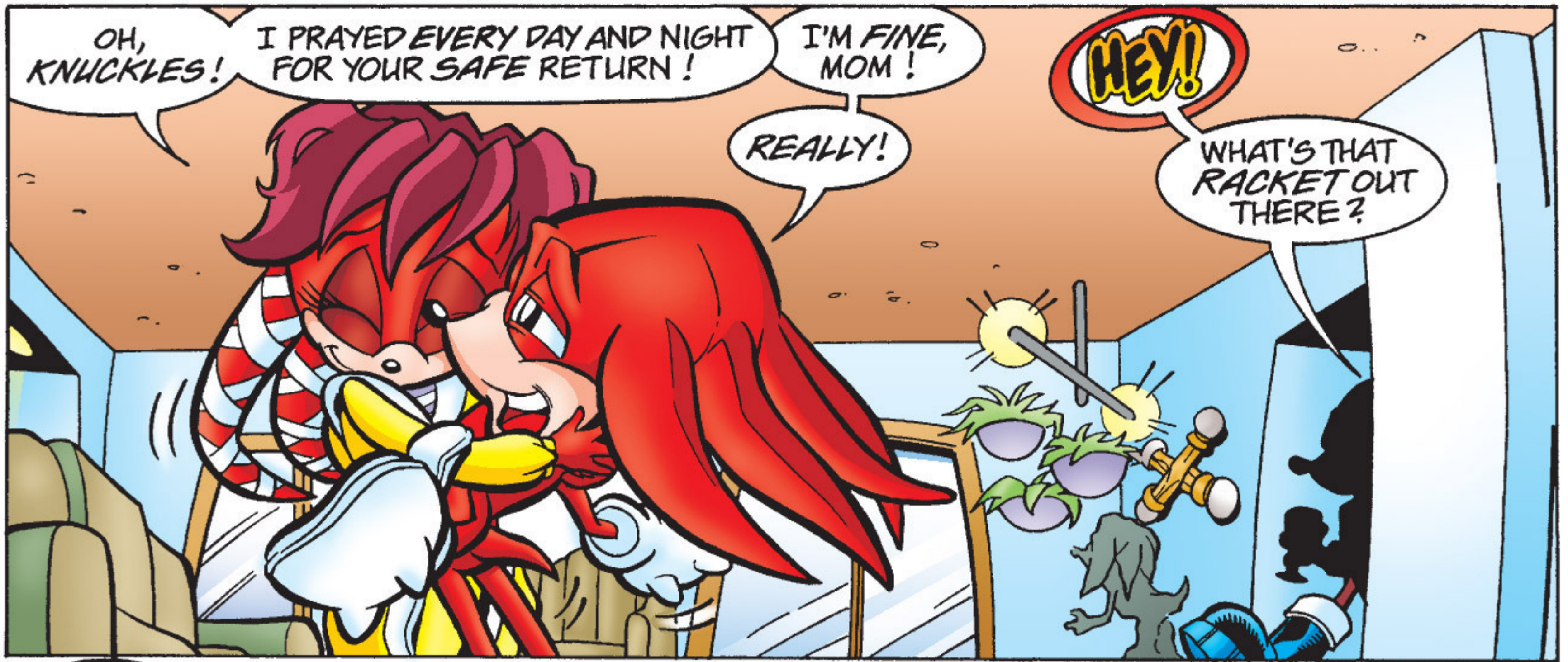
IN:

REUNIONS

YOU'RE HOME!

MOM!





OH, KNUCKLES!

I PRAYED EVERY DAY AND NIGHT FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN!

I'M FINE, MOM!

REALLY!

HEY!

WHAT'S THAT RACKET OUT THERE?

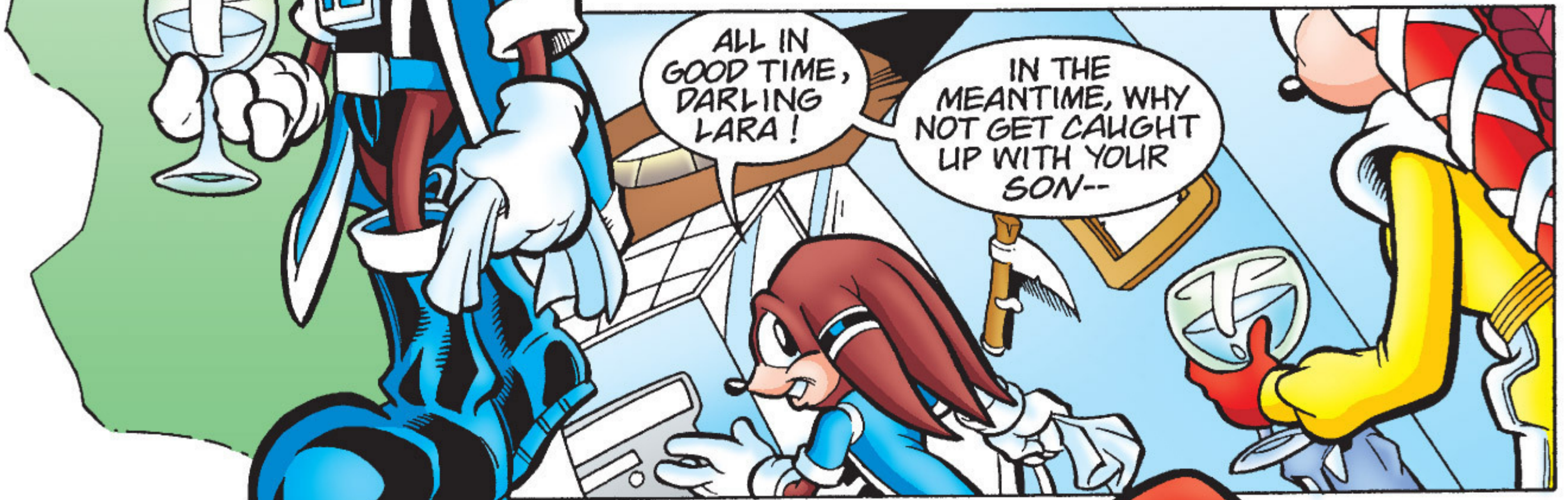


Ahh! MOTHER HEN HAS ARRIVED!

HERE! THIS DRINK OF MILK WILL RELAX YOU!

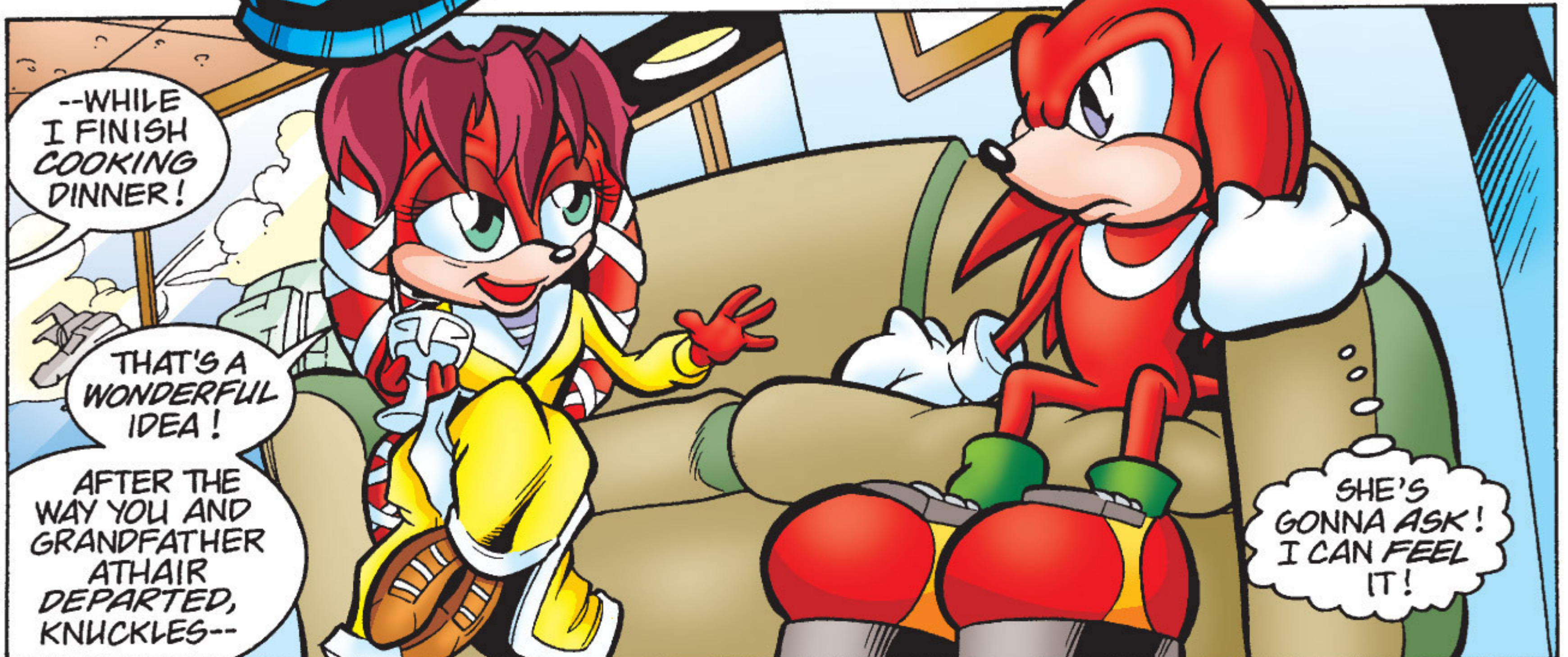
YOU MEAN YOU KNEW THAT KNUCKLES WAS BACK?

WHEN DID YOU FIND OUT, WYN?



ALL IN GOOD TIME, DARLING LARA!

IN THE MEANTIME, WHY NOT GET CAUGHT UP WITH YOUR SON--

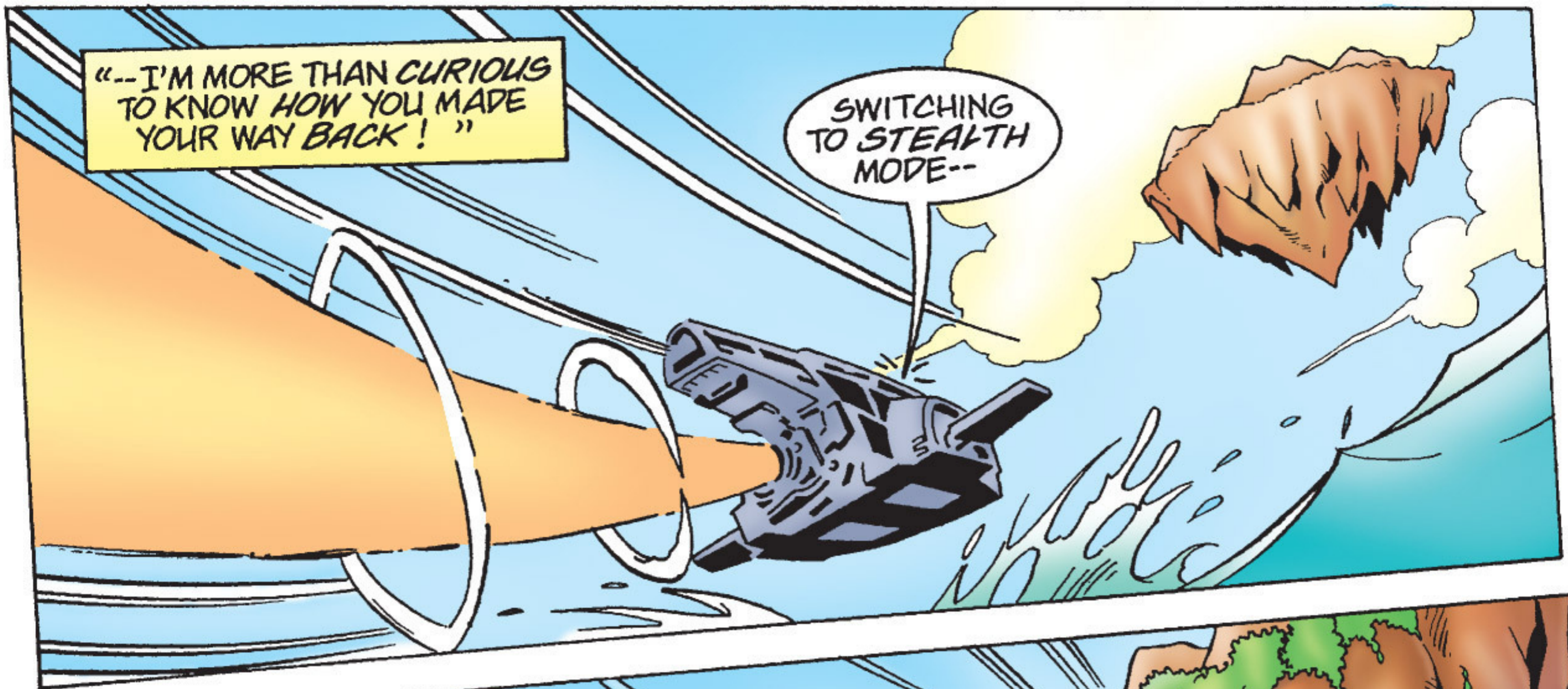


--WHILE I FINISH COOKING DINNER!

THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA!

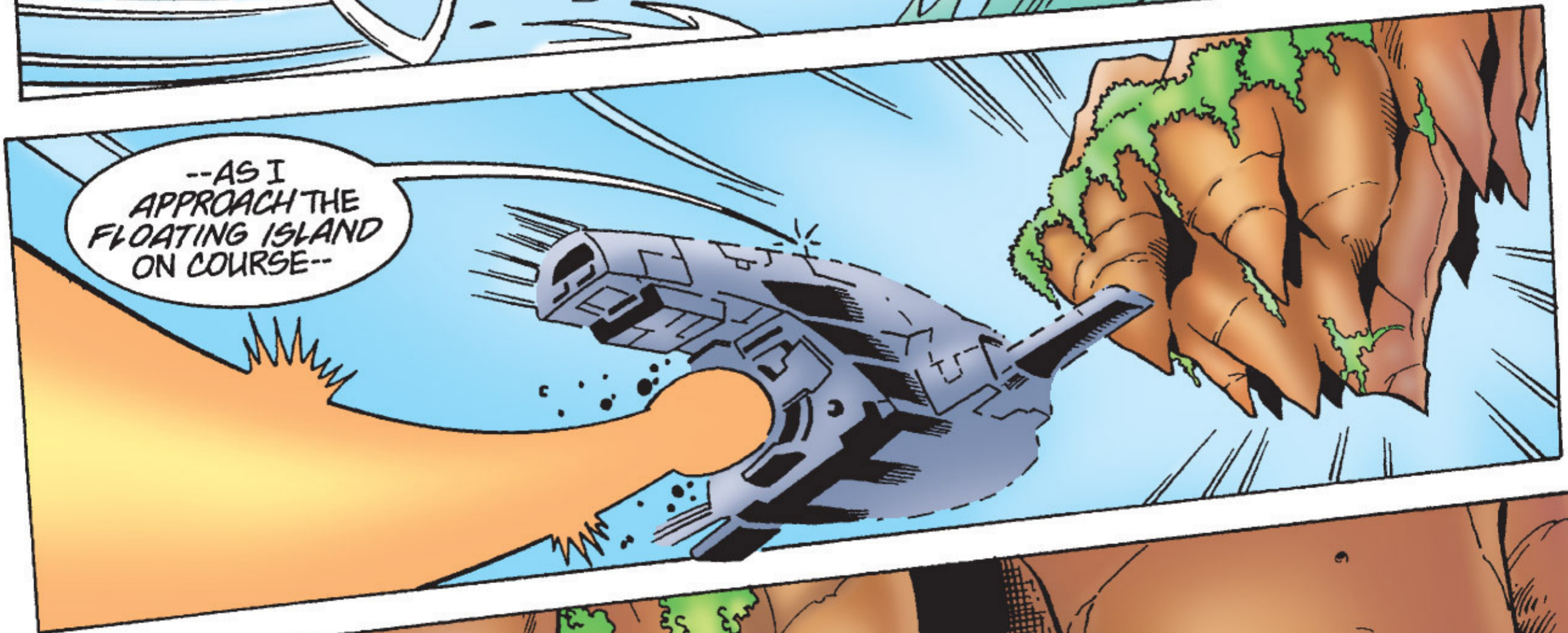
AFTER THE WAY YOU AND GRANDFATHER ATHAIR DEPARTED, KNUCKLES--

SHE'S GONNA ASK! I CAN FEEL IT!

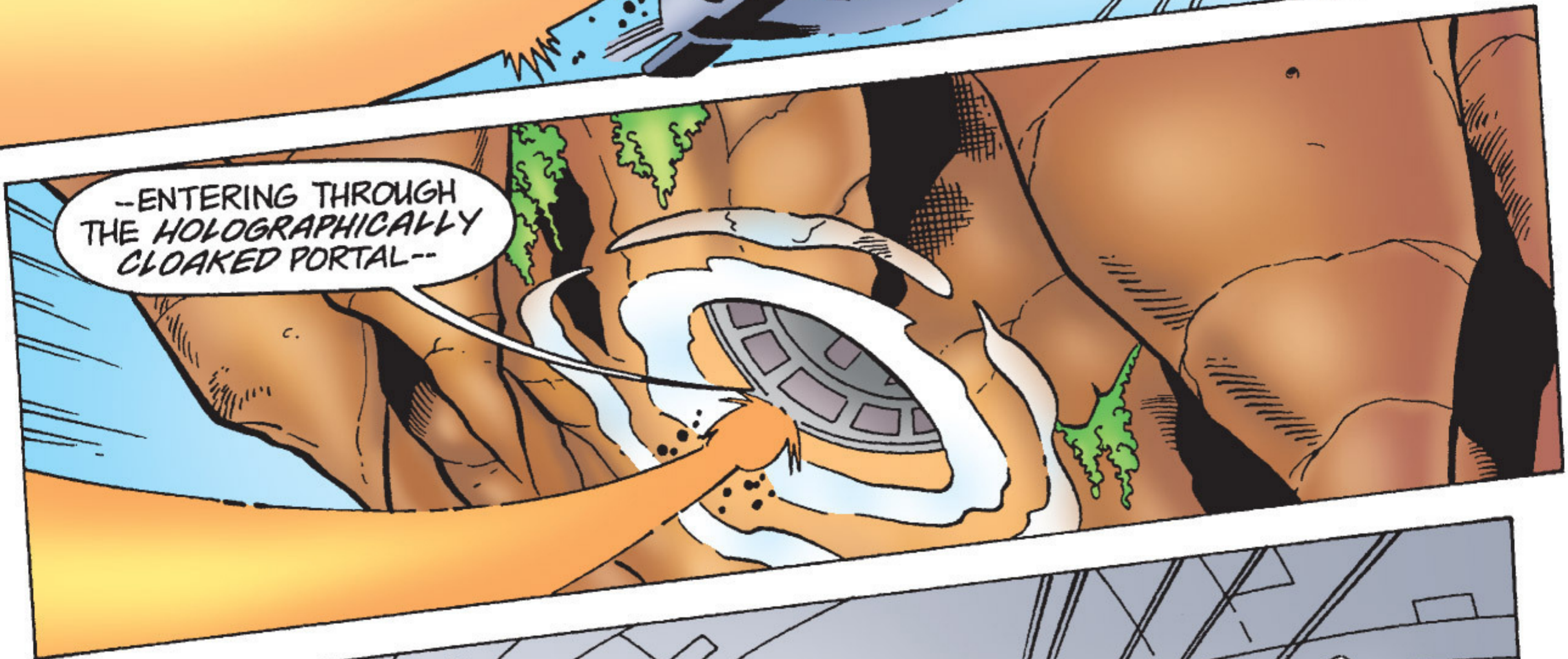


"--I'M MORE THAN CURIOUS TO KNOW HOW YOU MADE YOUR WAY BACK!"

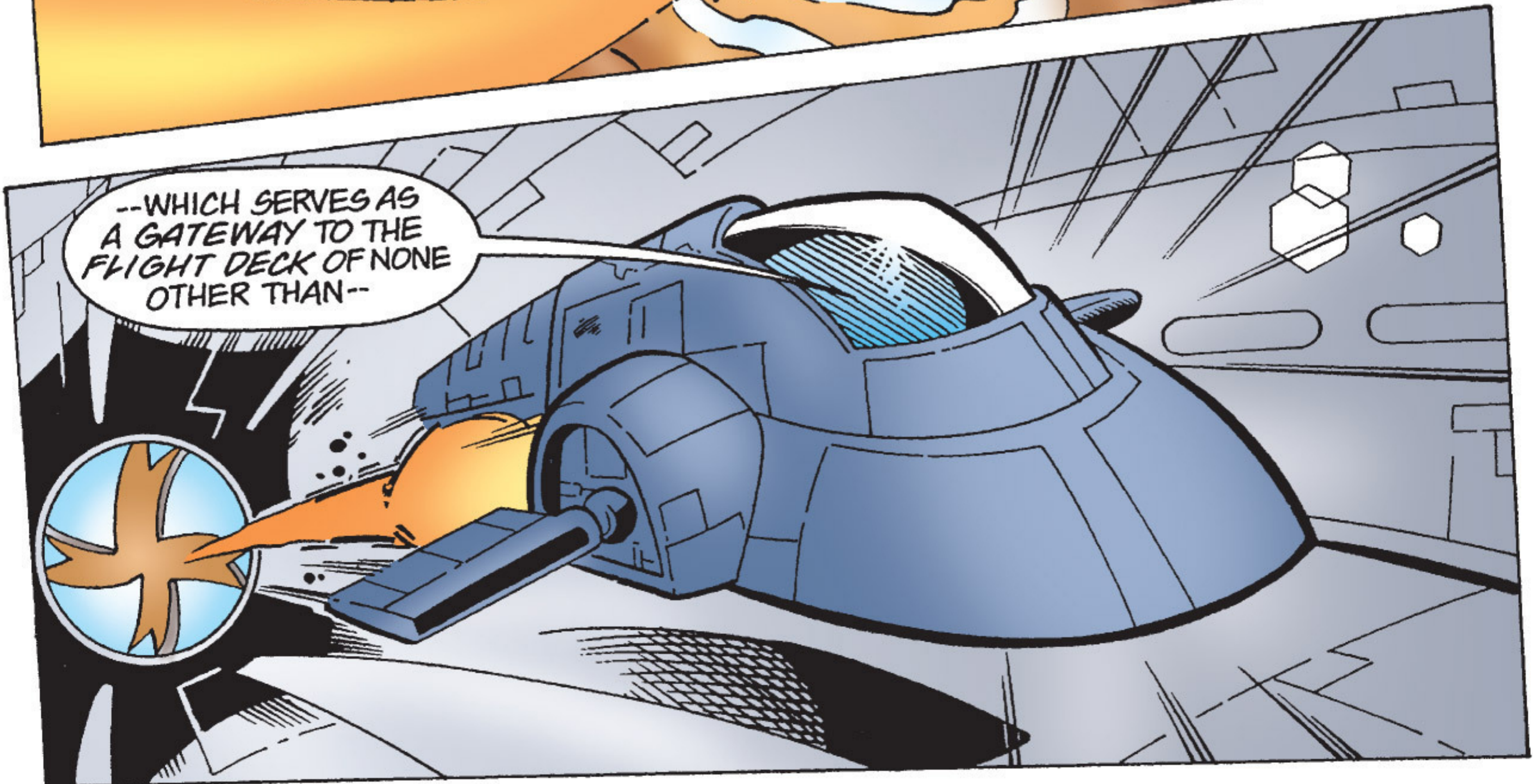
SWITCHING TO STEALTH MODE--



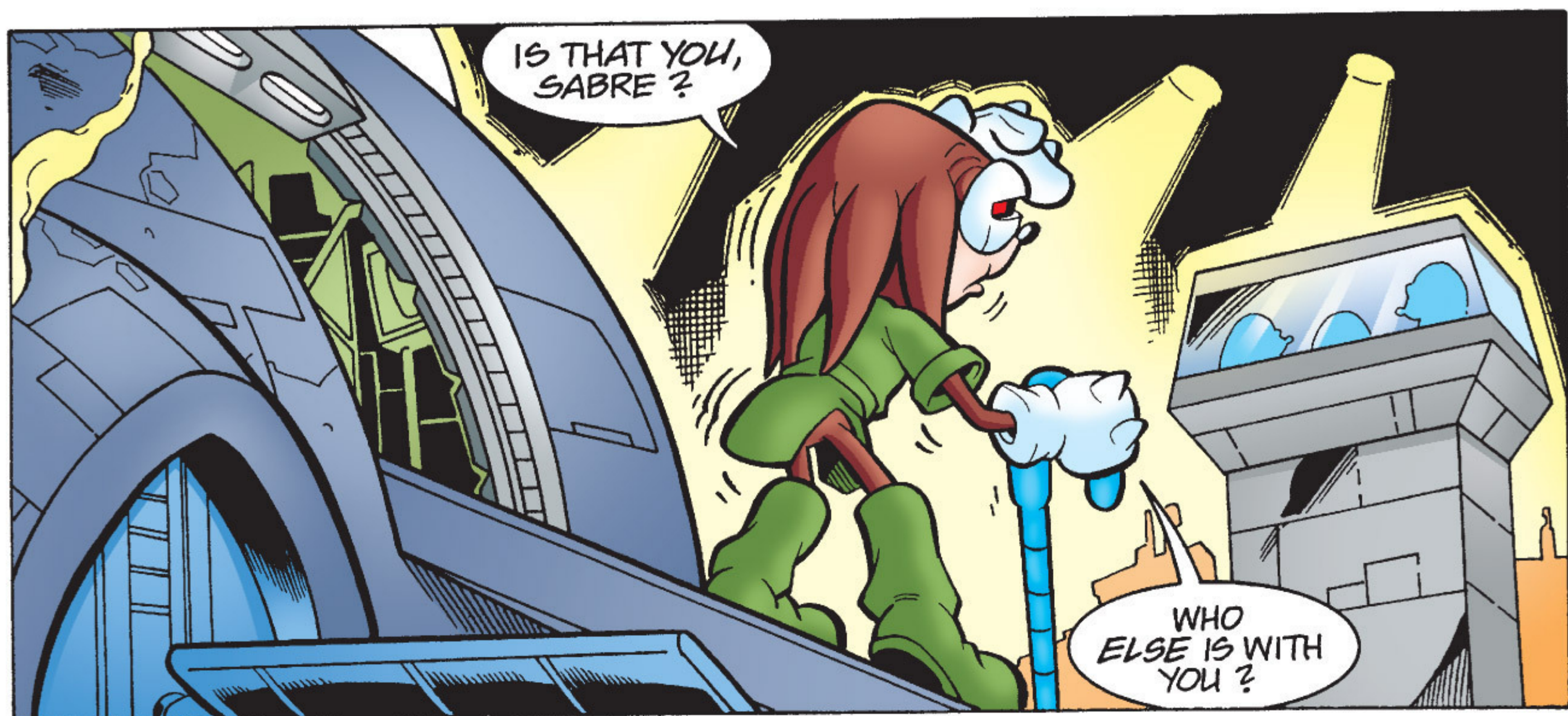
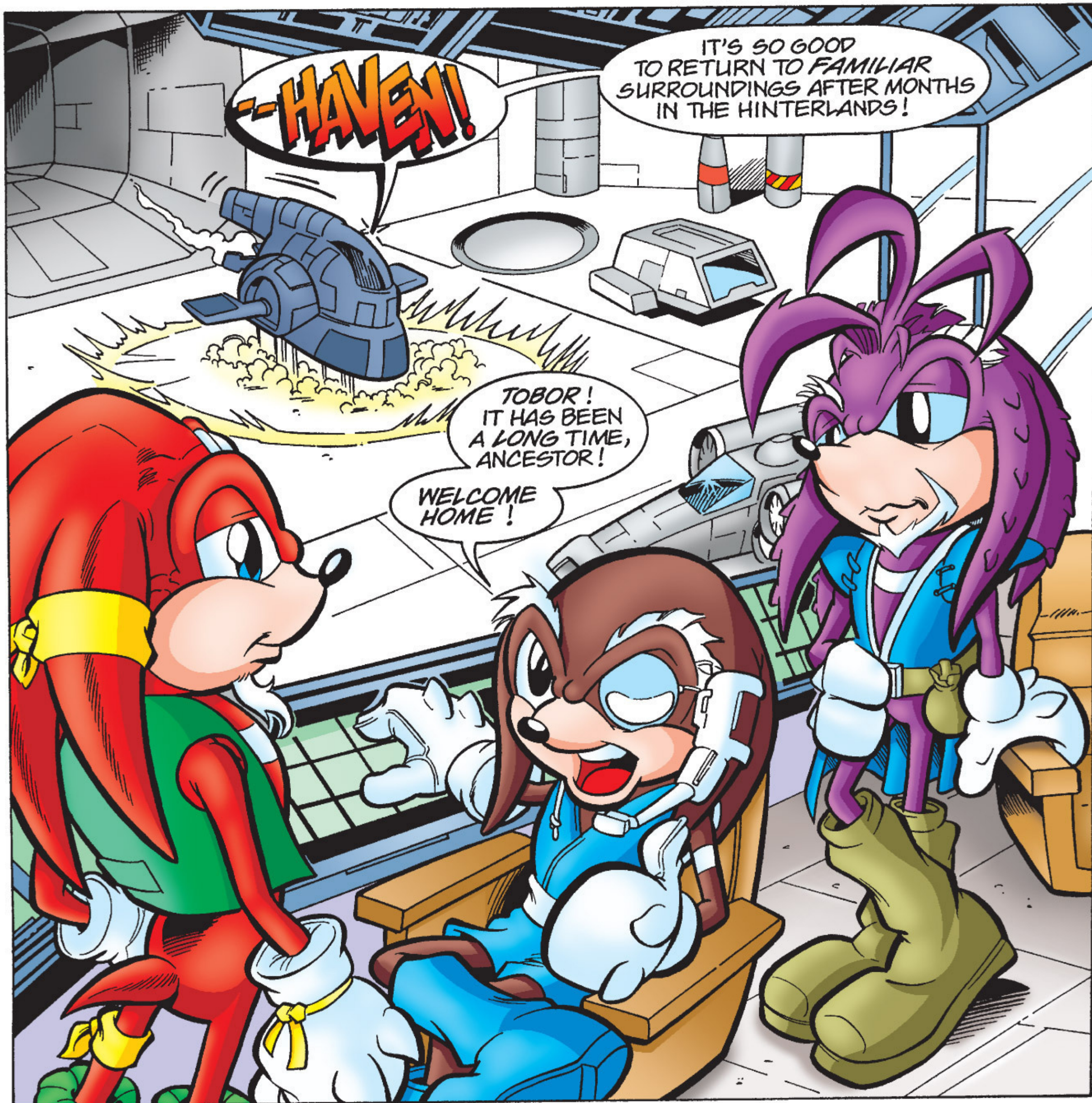
--AS I APPROACH THE FLOATING ISLAND ON COURSE--



--ENTERING THROUGH THE HOLOGRAPHICALLY CLOAKED PORTAL--



--WHICH SERVES AS A GATEWAY TO THE FLIGHT DECK OF NONE OTHER THAN--

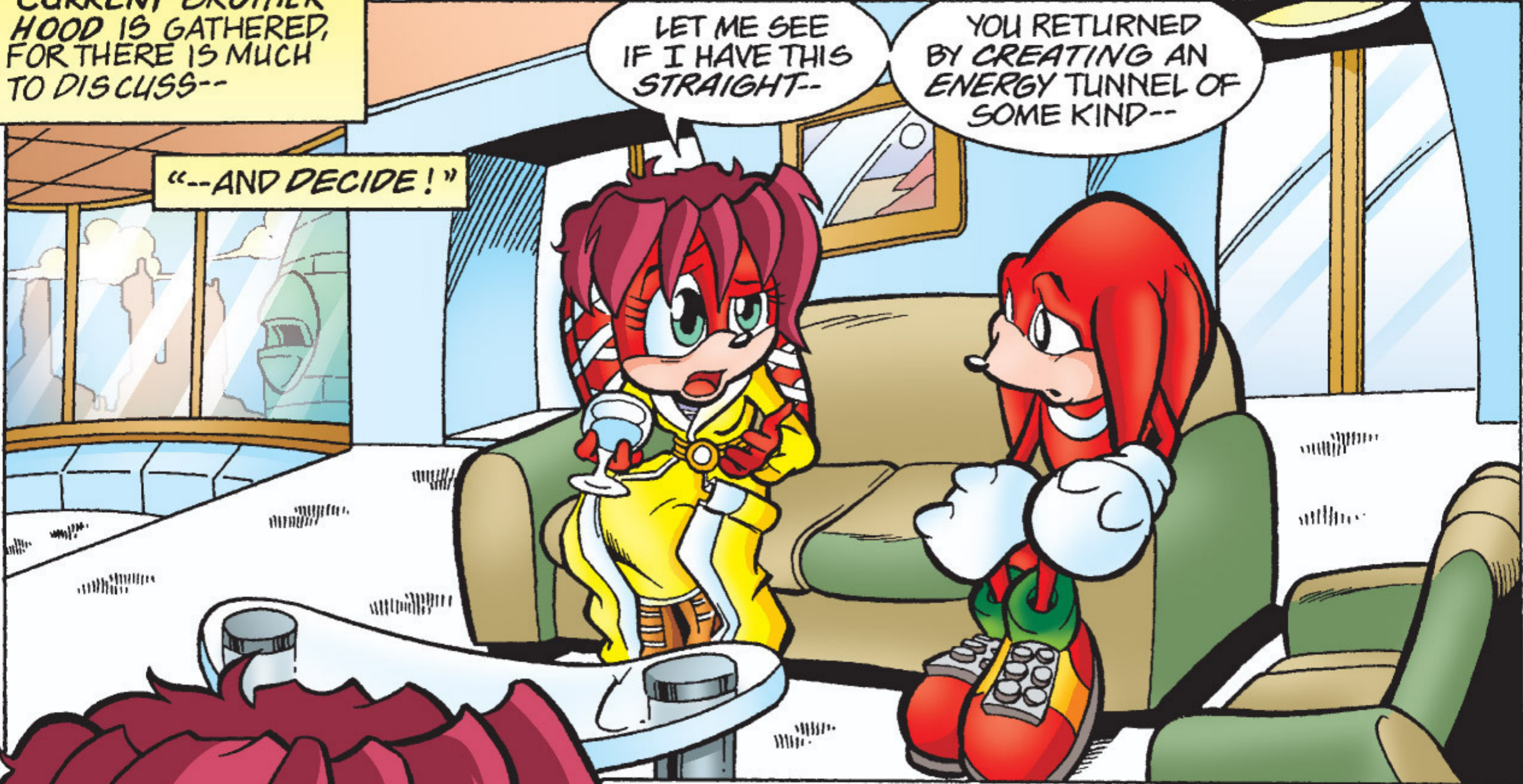


"EVERYONE OF THE CURRENT BROTHERHOOD IS GATHERED, FOR THERE IS MUCH TO DISCUSS--

"--AND DECIDE!"

LET ME SEE IF I HAVE THIS STRAIGHT--

YOU RETURNED BY CREATING AN ENERGY TUNNEL OF SOME KIND--



--ALL BY YOURSELF?

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

I WAS HOPING--

--THAT MAYBE YOU COULD TELL ME!

AFTER ALL--

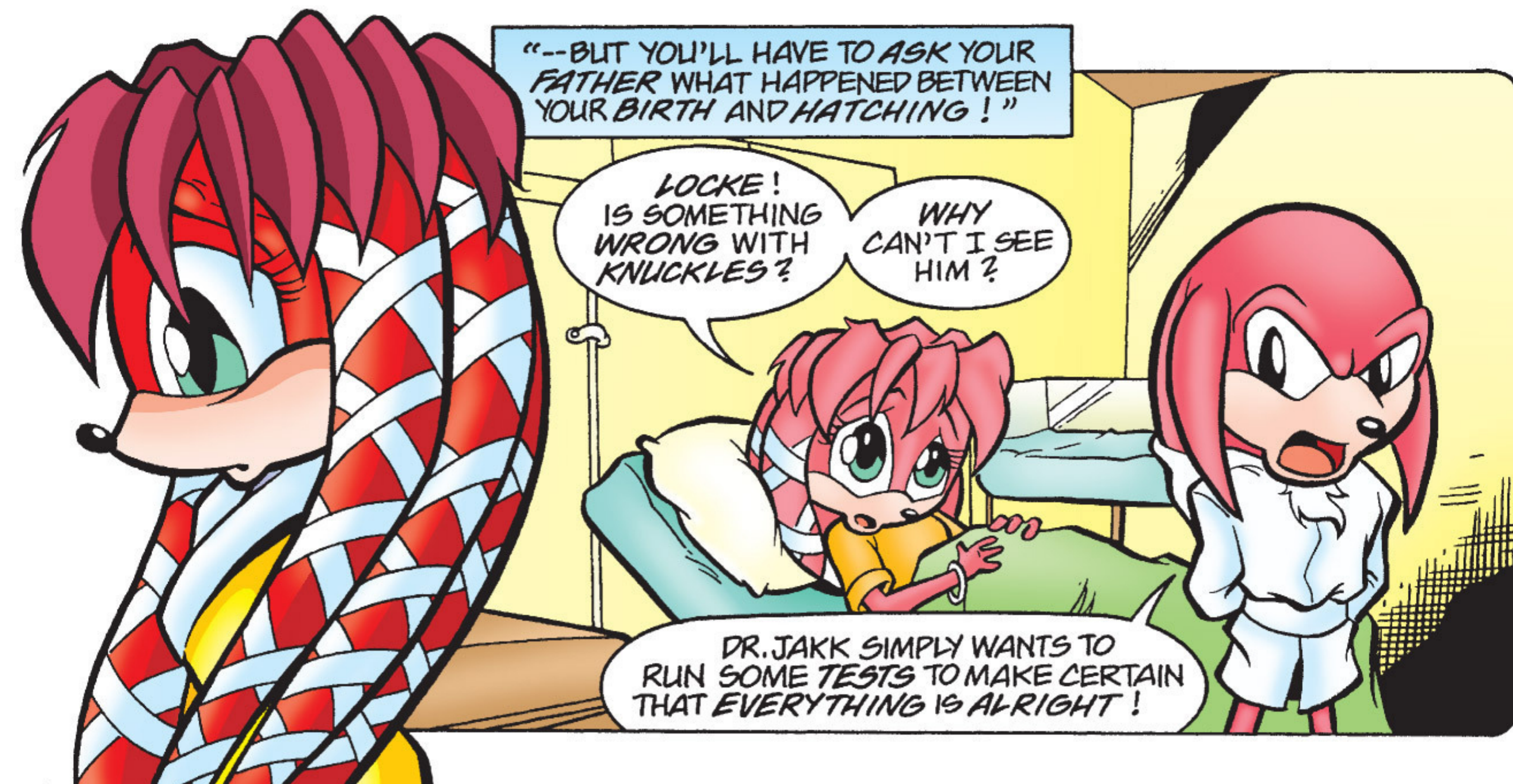


--WHO WOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT ME THAN MY PARENTS?



YOU WERE BORN THE SAME AS ANY ECHIDNA, KNUCKLES--





"--BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK YOUR FATHER WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOUR BIRTH AND HATCHING!"

LOCKE!
IS SOMETHING
WRONG WITH
KNUCKLES?

WHY
CAN'T I SEE
HIM?

DR. JAKK SIMPLY WANTS TO
RUN SOME TESTS TO MAKE CERTAIN
THAT EVERYTHING IS ALRIGHT!



"IT NORMALLY TAKES
THREE DAYS BETWEEN
BIRTH AND HATCHING,
BUT A DAY LATER
I WAS HOLDING YOU
IN MY ARMS."

HE HAS YOU FOR A
MOTHER, LARA!

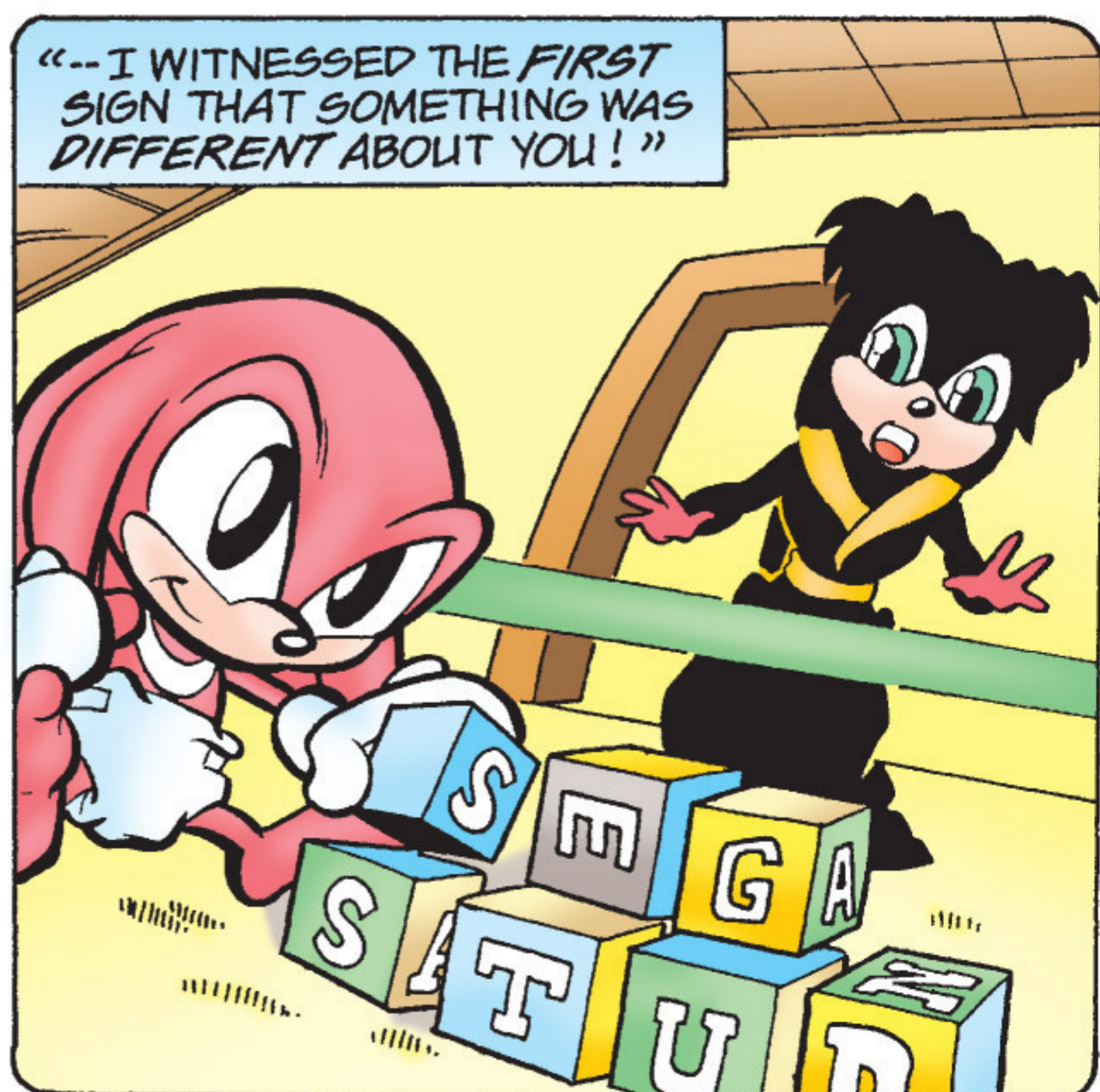
HOW
COULD HE BE
ANYTHING
BUT?

ISN'T HE
BEAUTIFUL,
LOCKE?



"EVERYTHING SEEMED FINE
UNTIL MONTHS LATER WHEN
I FOUND YOU PLAYING--"

GOO
GOO!



"--I WITNESSED THE FIRST
SIGN THAT SOMETHING WAS
DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU!"

DIFFERENT?

IN WHAT WAY, MOTHER?



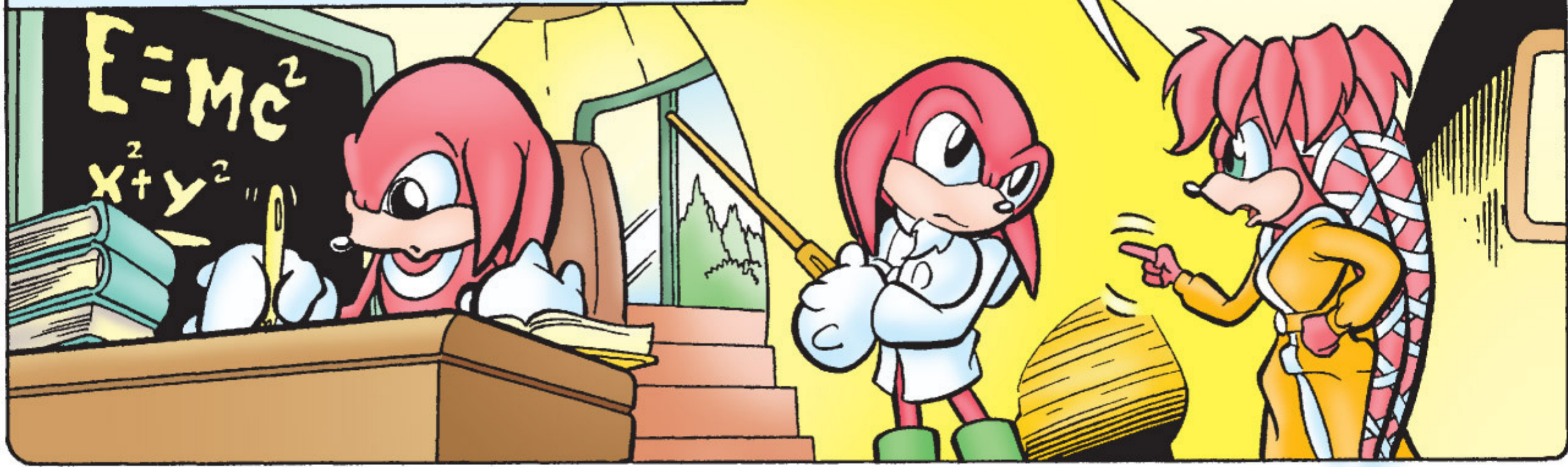
YOU WERE SPELLING WORDS FAR IN ADVANCE OF YOUR AGE LEVEL! BEFORE YOU COULD EVEN SPEAK!

WORDS EVEN I HAD TROUBLE WITH SOMETIMES!



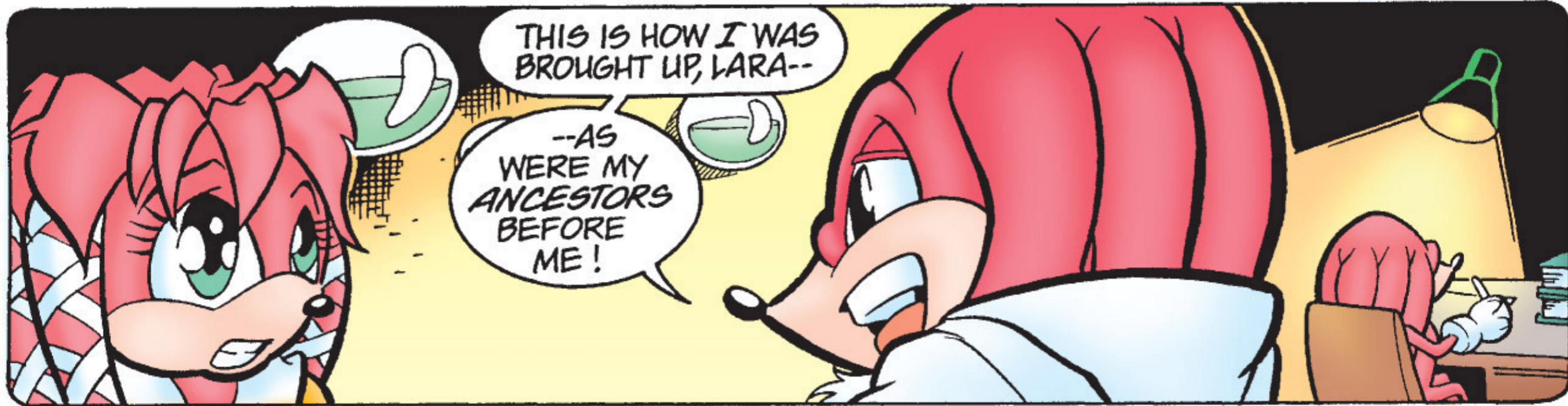
"WHEN YOU WERE BUT THREE YEARS OF AGE, IT WAS YOUR FATHER WHO SUPERVISED YOUR TRAINING, AND DETERMINED WHAT WAS IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS!"

DON'T YOU THINK I SHOULD HAVE SOME SAY, LOCKE? HE'S MY SON AS WELL!



THIS IS HOW I WAS BROUGHT UP, LARA--

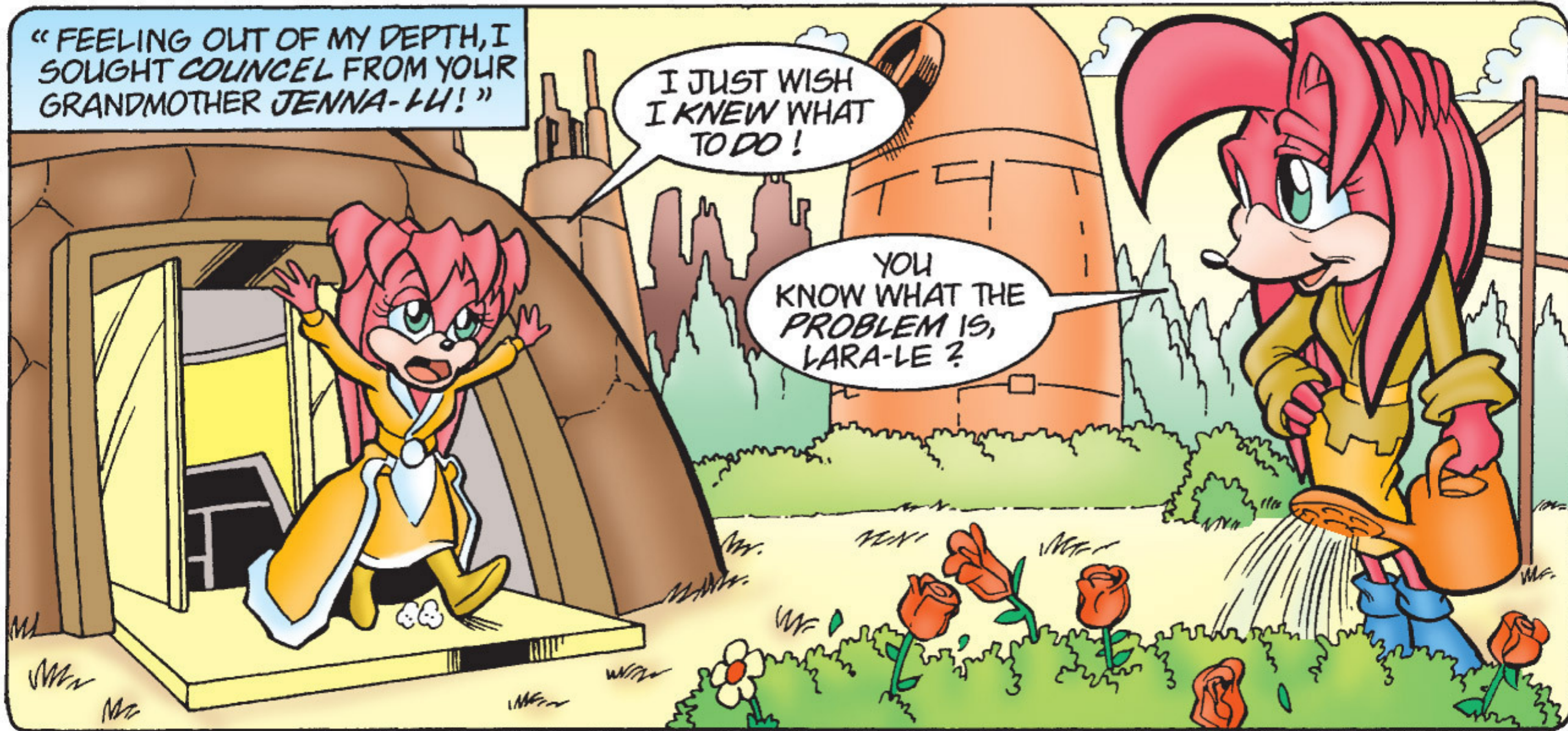
--AS WERE MY ANCESTORS BEFORE ME!

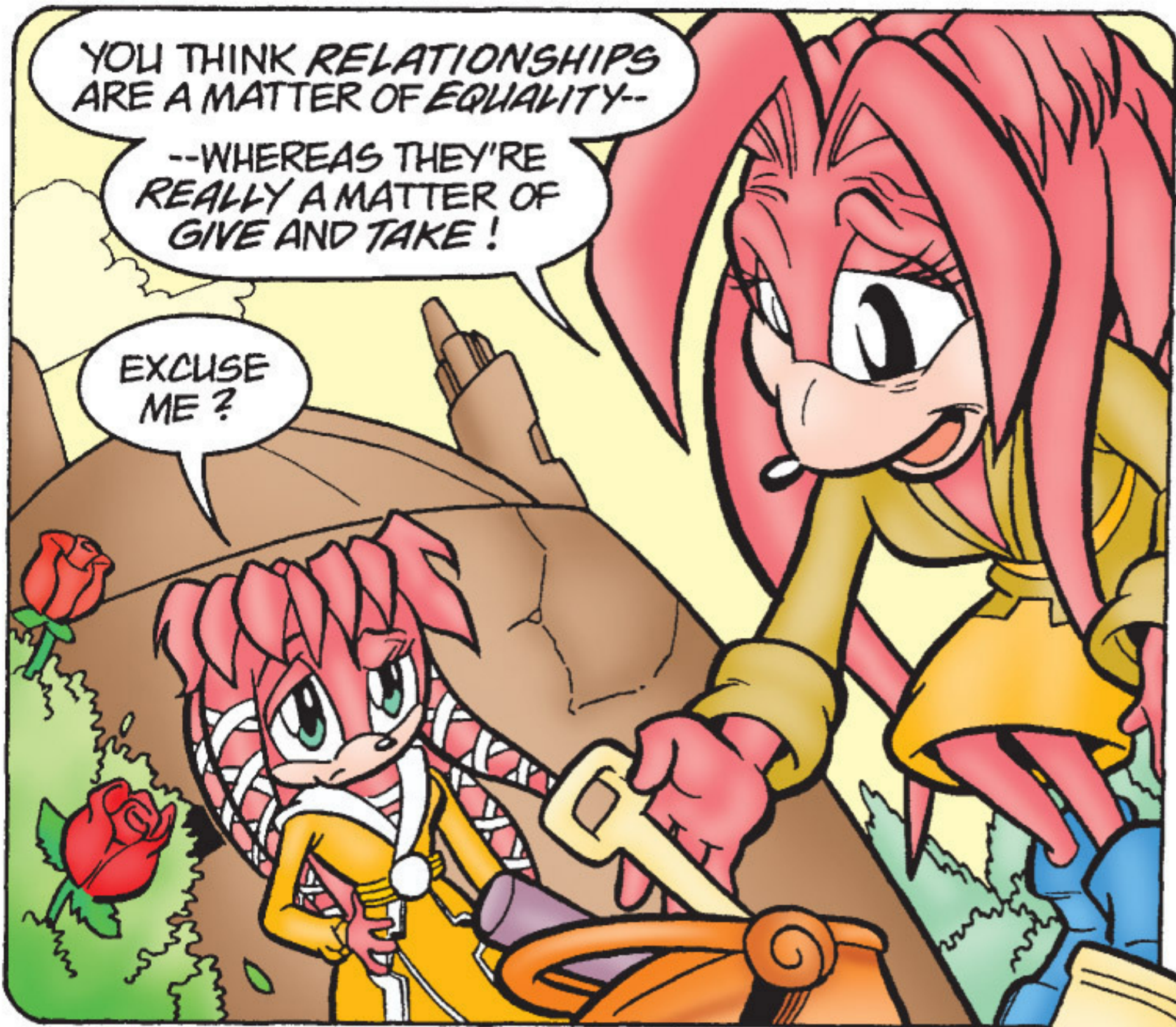


"FEELING OUT OF MY DEPTH, I SOUGHT COUNSEL FROM YOUR GRANDMOTHER JENNA-LH!"

I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT TO DO!

YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS, LARA-LE?

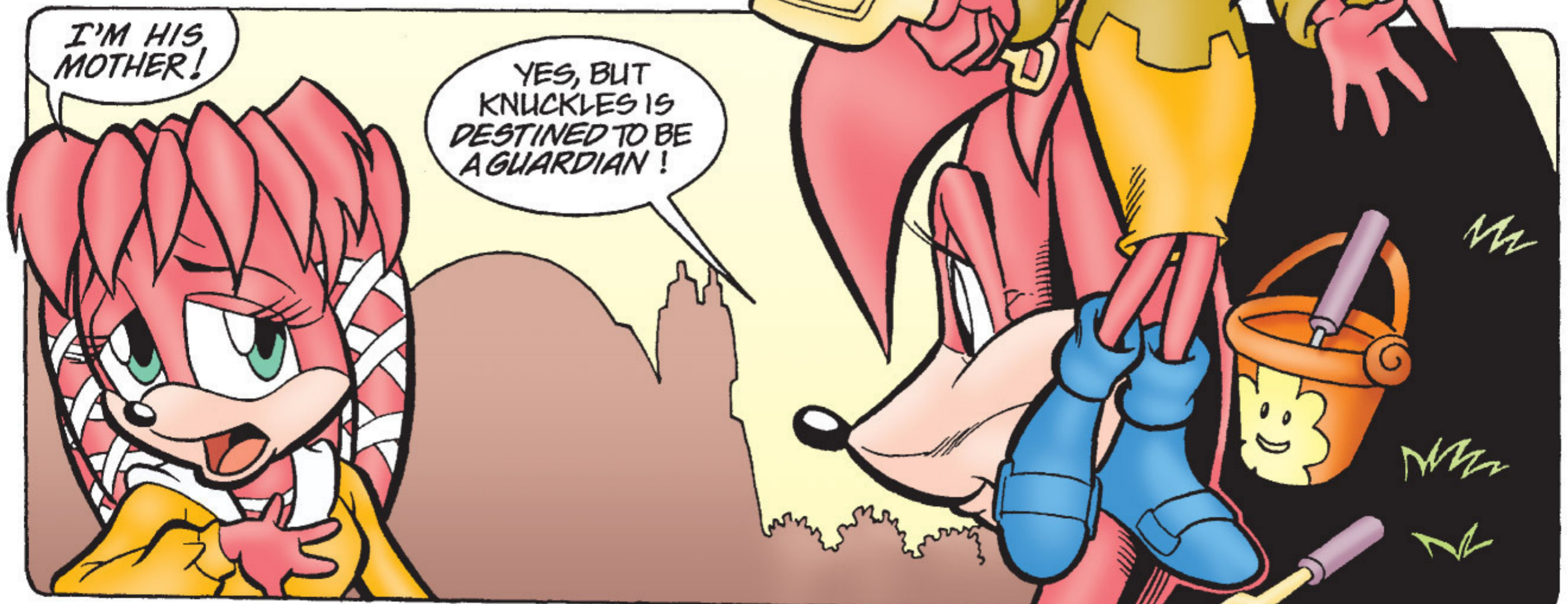




YOU THINK RELATIONSHIPS ARE A MATTER OF EQUALITY--
--WHEREAS THEY'RE REALLY A MATTER OF GIVE AND TAKE!

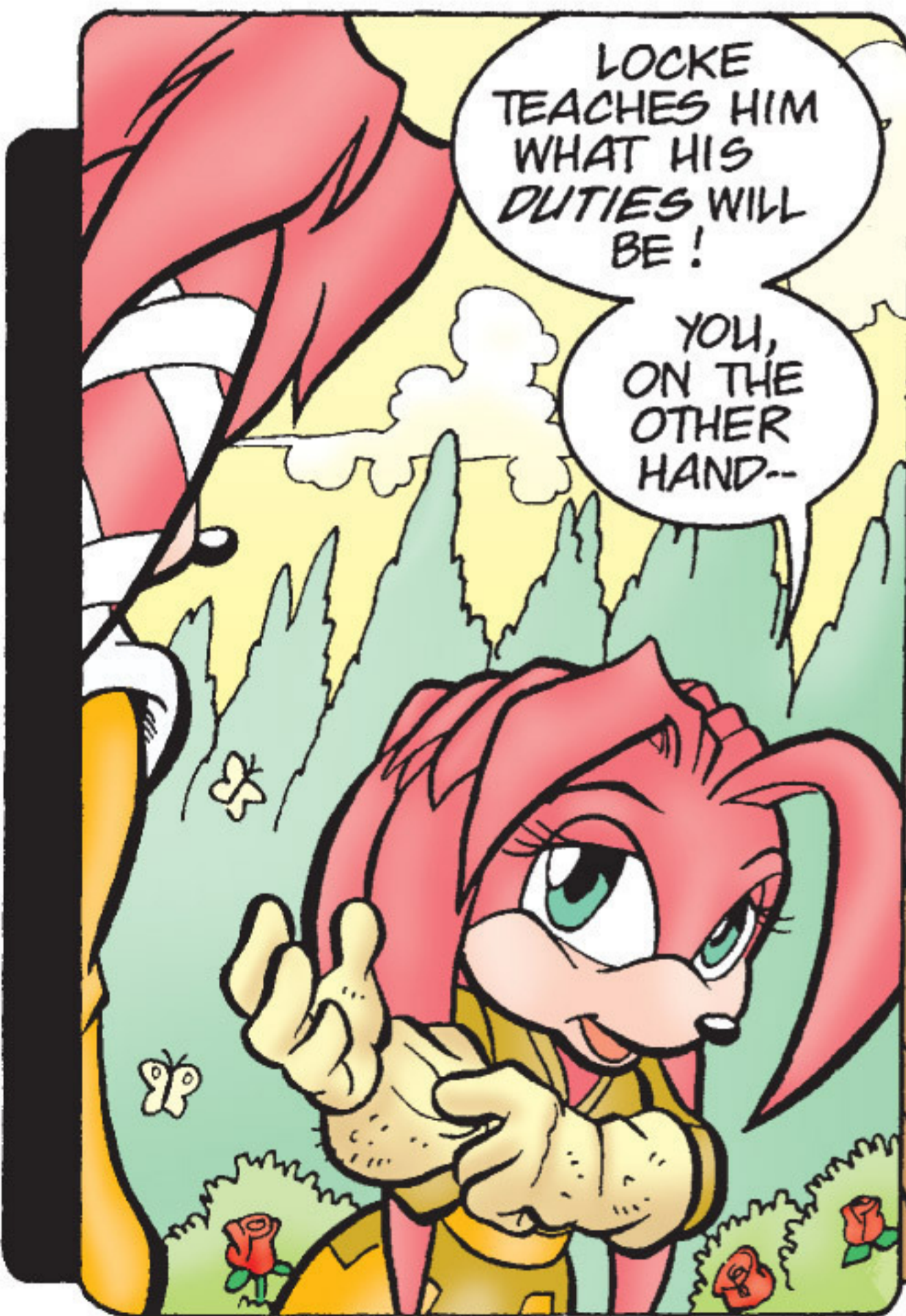
EXCUSE ME?

TAKE YOUR SITUATION WITH LOCKE AND KNUCKLES!
YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE AS MUCH INFLUENCE OVER KNUCKLES AS DOES LOCKE!



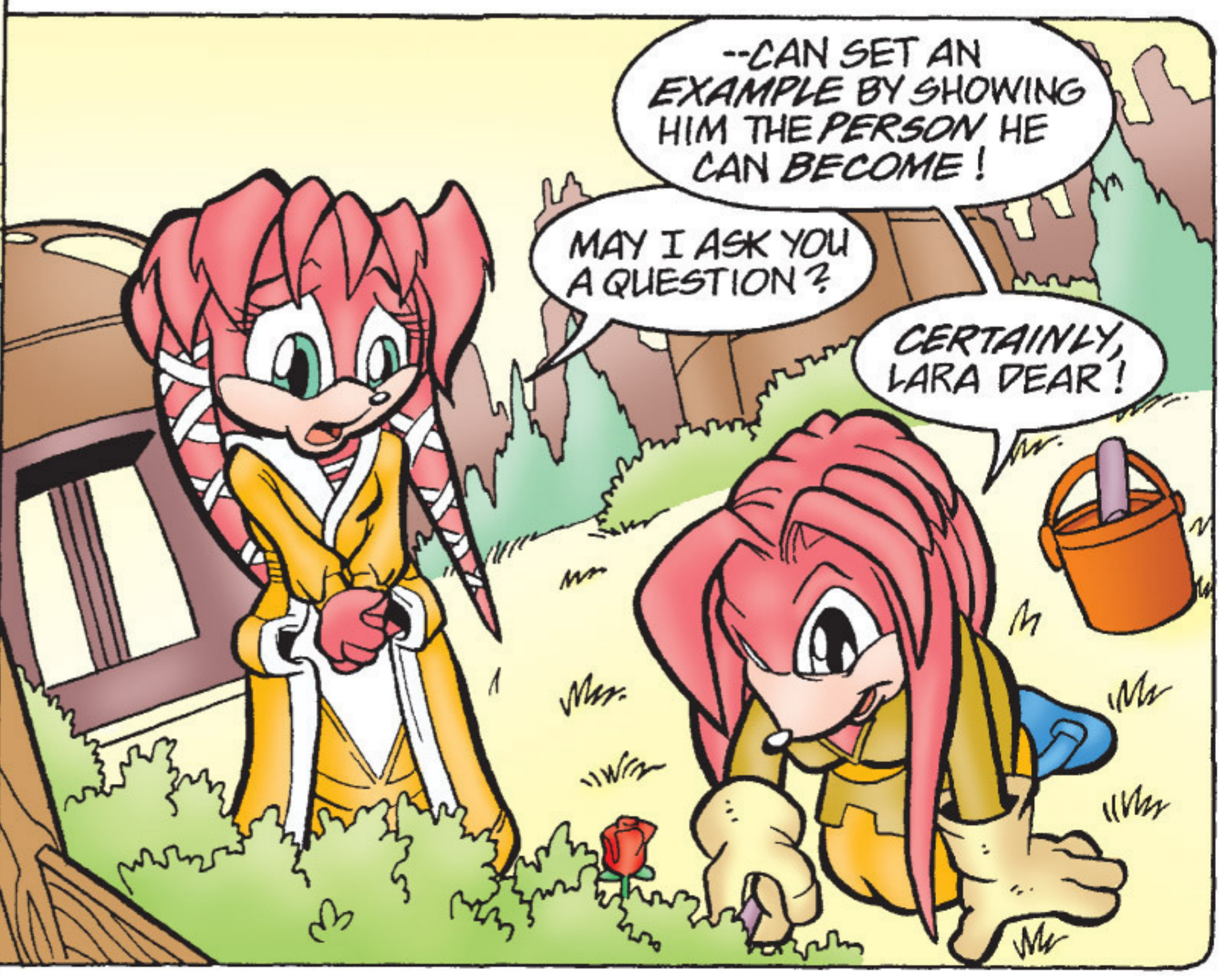
I'M HIS MOTHER!

YES, BUT KNUCKLES IS DESTINED TO BE A GUARDIAN!



LOCKE TEACHES HIM WHAT HIS DUTIES WILL BE!

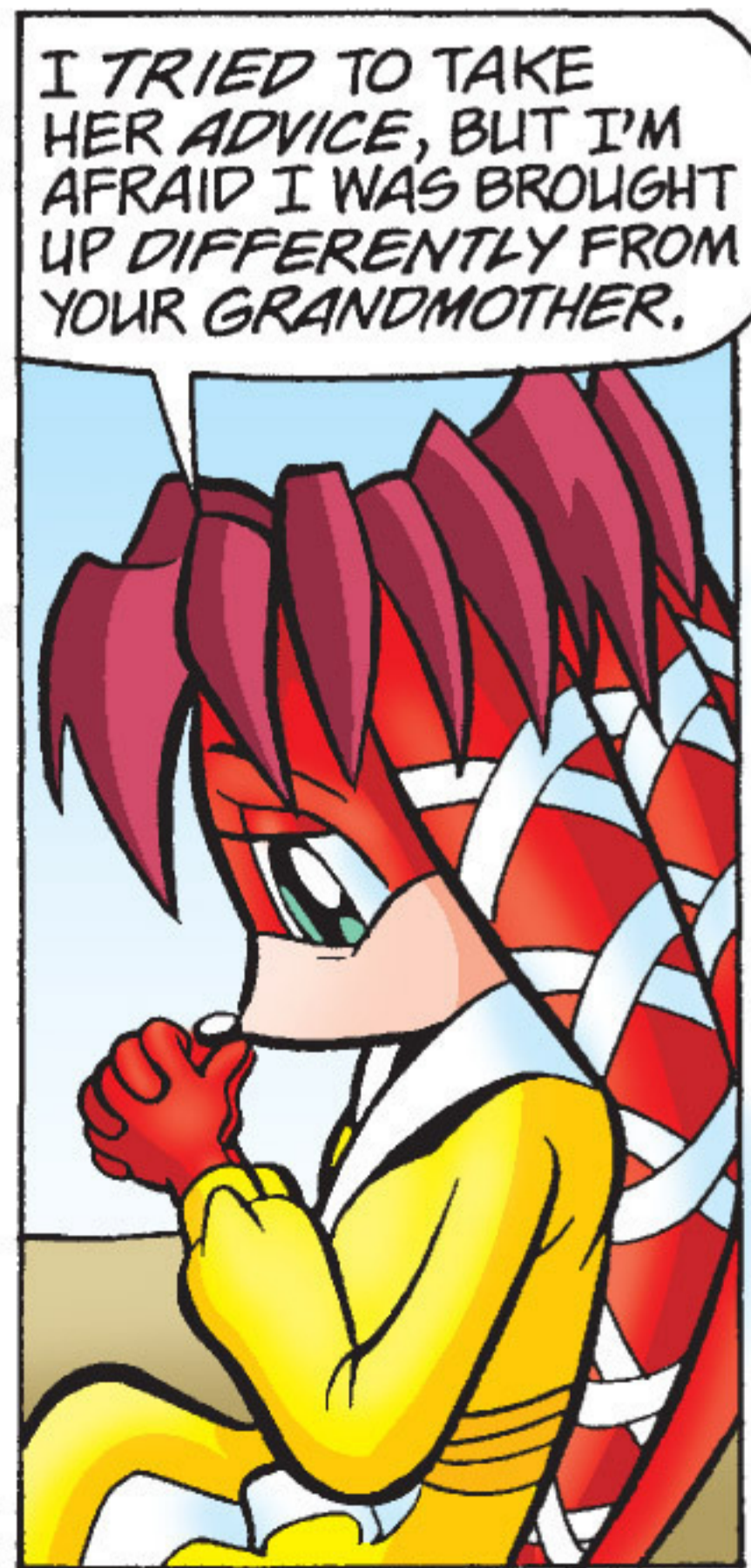
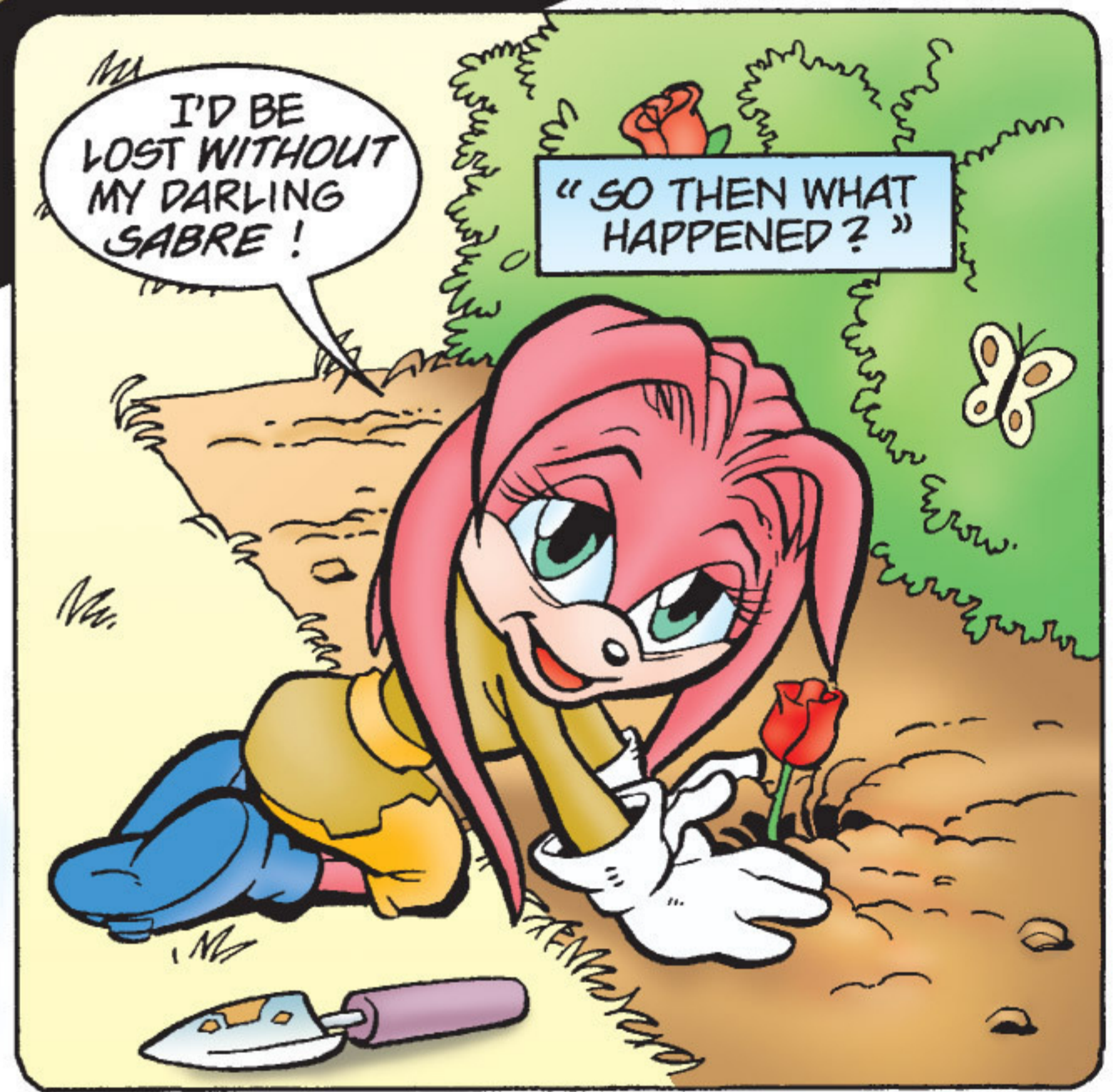
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND--

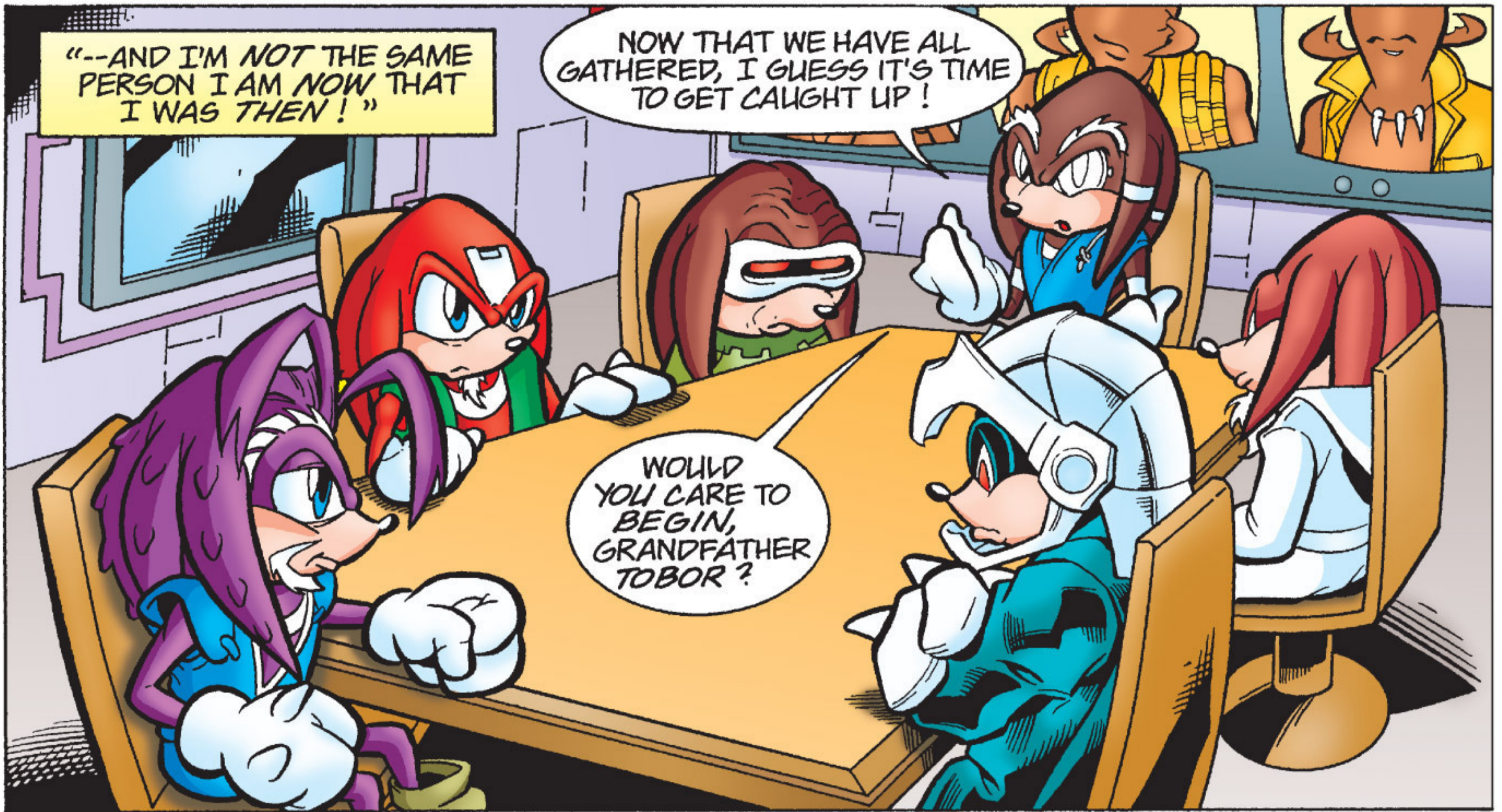


--CAN SET AN EXAMPLE BY SHOWING HIM THE PERSON HE CAN BECOME!

MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

CERTAINLY, LARA DEAR!





"--AND I'M NOT THE SAME PERSON I AM NOW THAT I WAS THEN!"

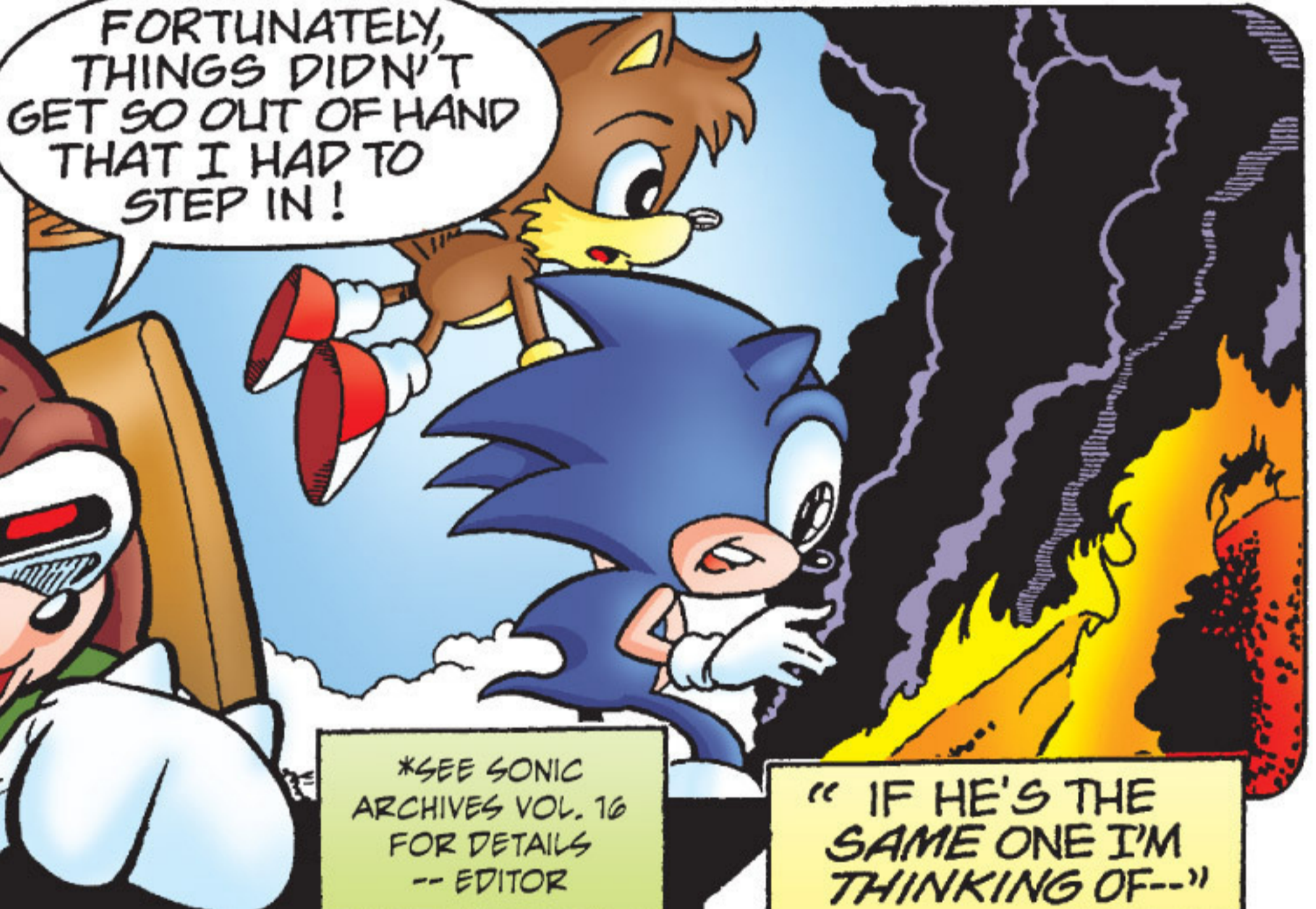
NOW THAT WE HAVE ALL GATHERED, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO GET CAUGHT UP!

WOULD YOU CARE TO BEGIN, GRANDFATHER TOBOR?



ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE DRAGON KINGDOM--

--EXCEPT FOR THAT BIT OF BUSINESS INVOLVING A HEDGEHOG KNOWN AS SONIC AND HIS FRIEND TAILS!*



FORTUNATELY, THINGS DIDN'T GET SO OUT OF HAND THAT I HAD TO STEP IN!

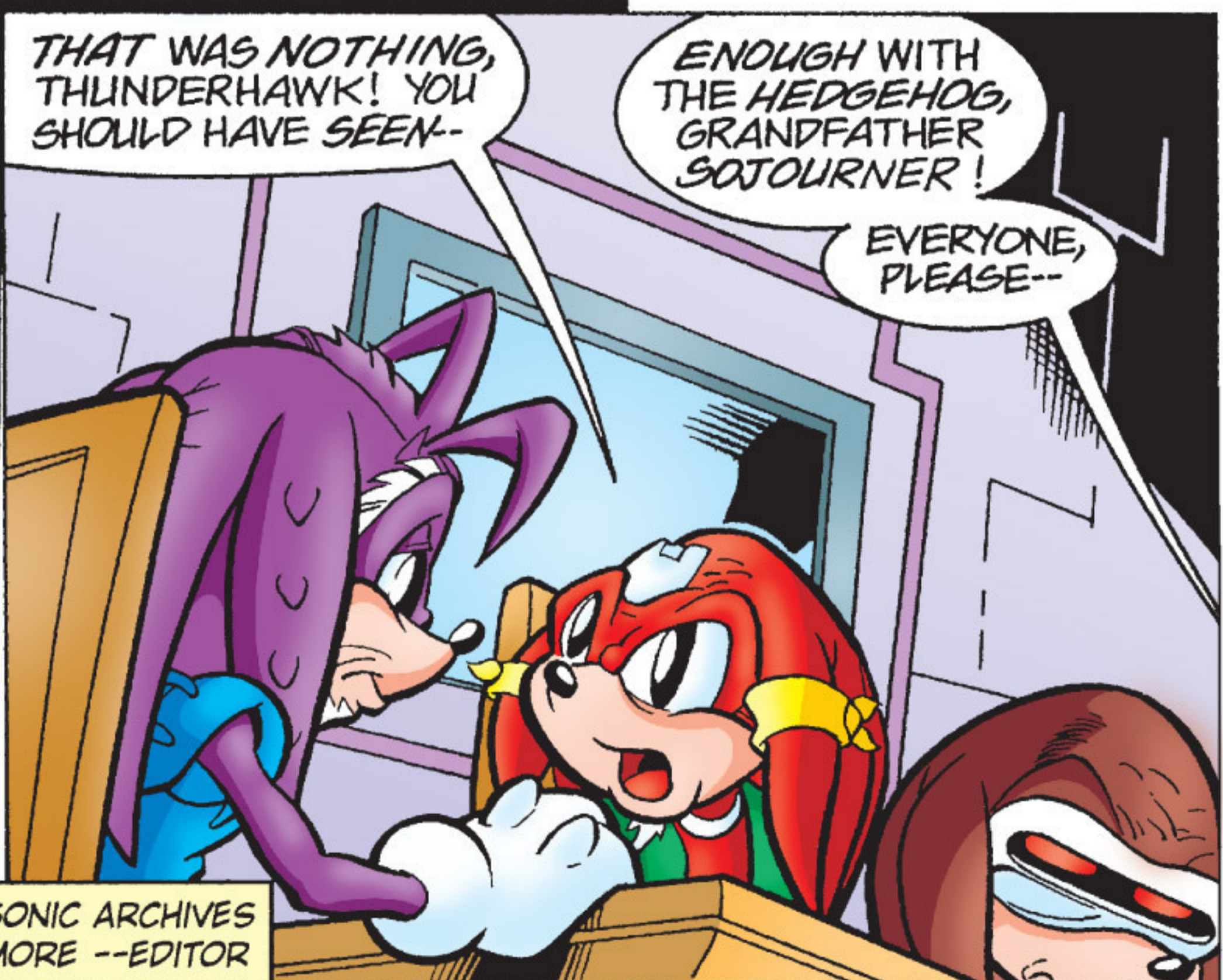
*SEE SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 16 FOR DETAILS -- EDITOR

"IF HE'S THE SAME ONE I'M THINKING OF--"



--HE WAS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE IN DOWNLUNDA!*

I HAD A LOT OF CLEANING UP TO DO AFTER HE LEFT!

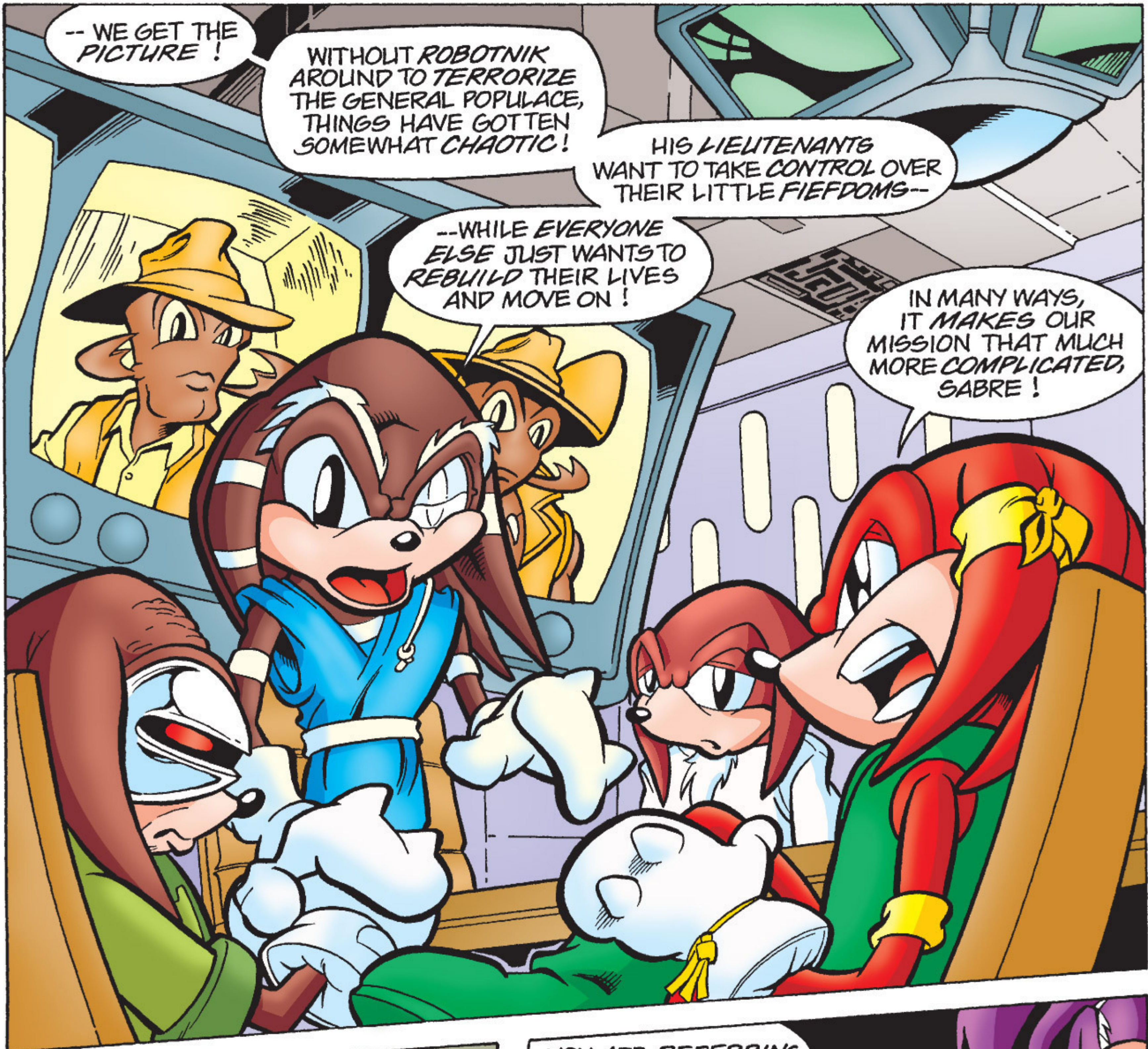


THAT WAS NOTHING, THUNDERHAWK! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN--

ENOUGH WITH THE HEDGEHOG, GRANDFATHER SOJOURNER!

EVERYONE, PLEASE--

*CHECK OUT SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 16 FOR MORE --EDITOR



-- WE GET THE PICTURE !

WITHOUT ROBOTNIK AROUND TO TERRORIZE THE GENERAL POPULACE, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN SOMEWHAT CHAOTIC!

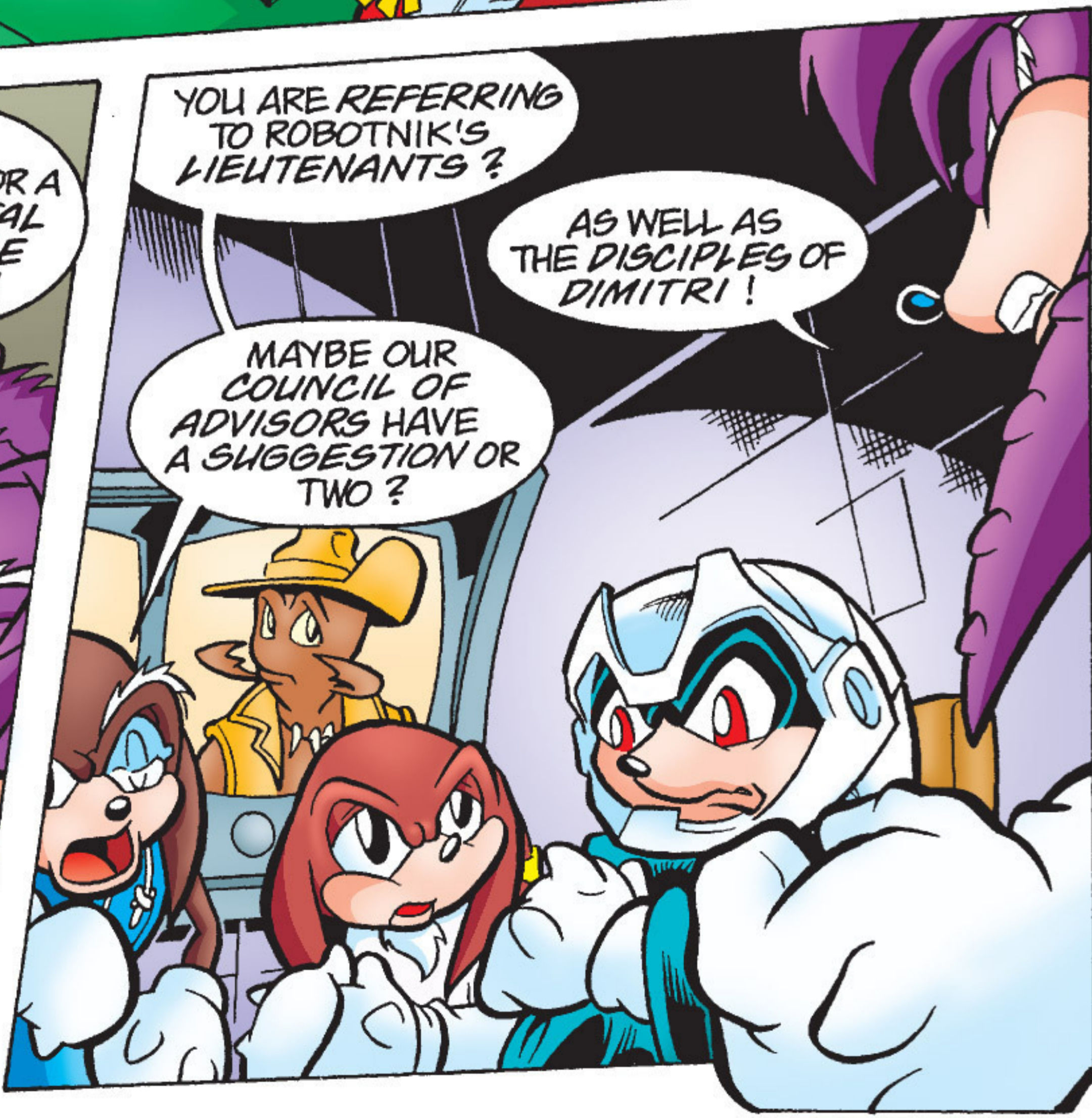
HIS LIEUTENANTS WANT TO TAKE CONTROL OVER THEIR LITTLE FIEFDOMS--

--WHILE EVERYONE ELSE JUST WANTS TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES AND MOVE ON !

IN MANY WAYS, IT MAKES OUR MISSION THAT MUCH MORE COMPLICATED, SABRE !



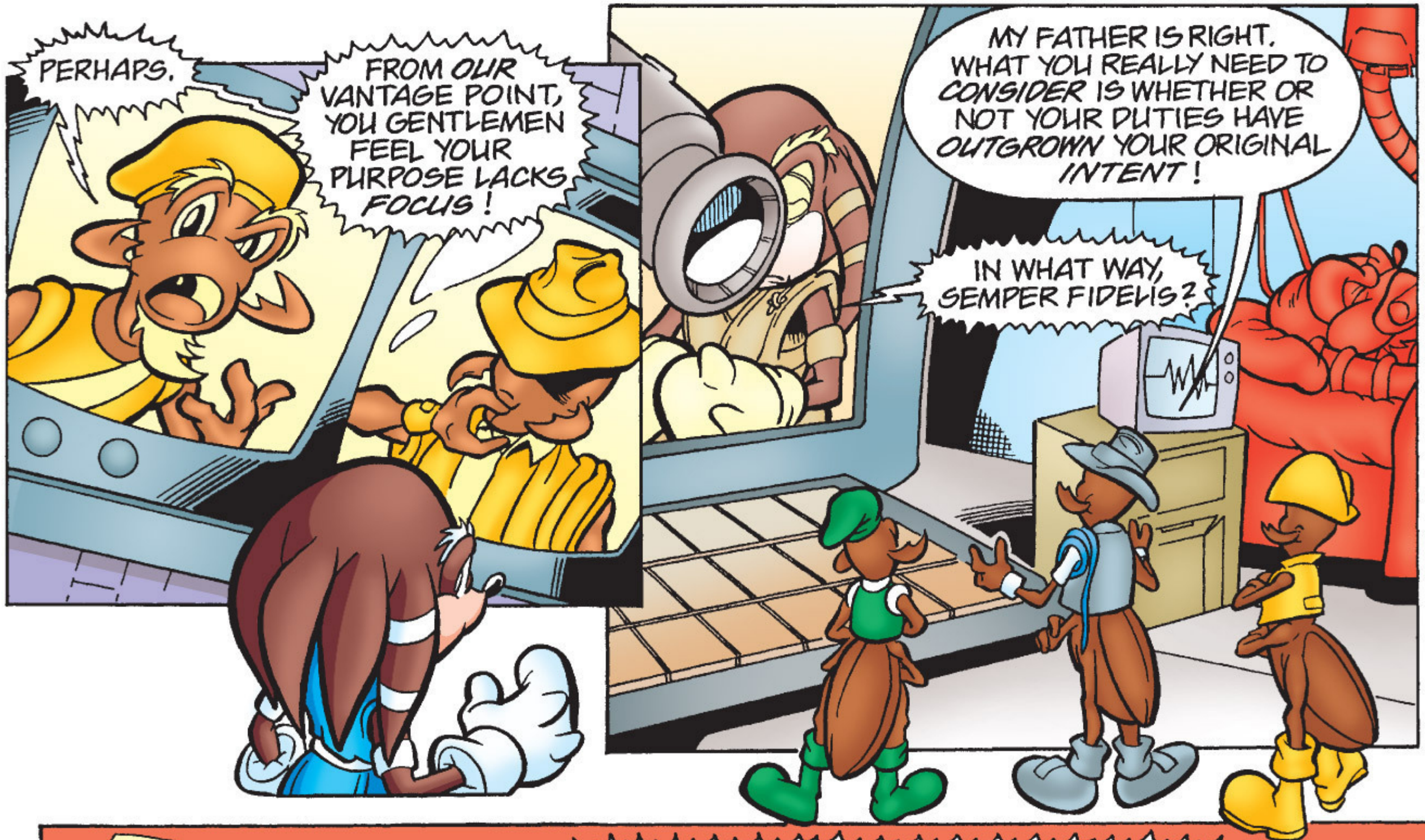
IT'S EASIER TO PREVENT ULTIMATE ANNIHILATION OR A COMMON ENEMY FROM USURPING TOTAL CONTROL THAN IT IS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH BRUSH FIRE TO PUT OUT !



YOU ARE REFERRING TO ROBOTNIK'S LIEUTENANTS ?

AS WELL AS THE DISCIPLES OF DIMITRI !

MAYBE OUR COUNCIL OF ADVISORS HAVE A SUGGESTION OR TWO ?

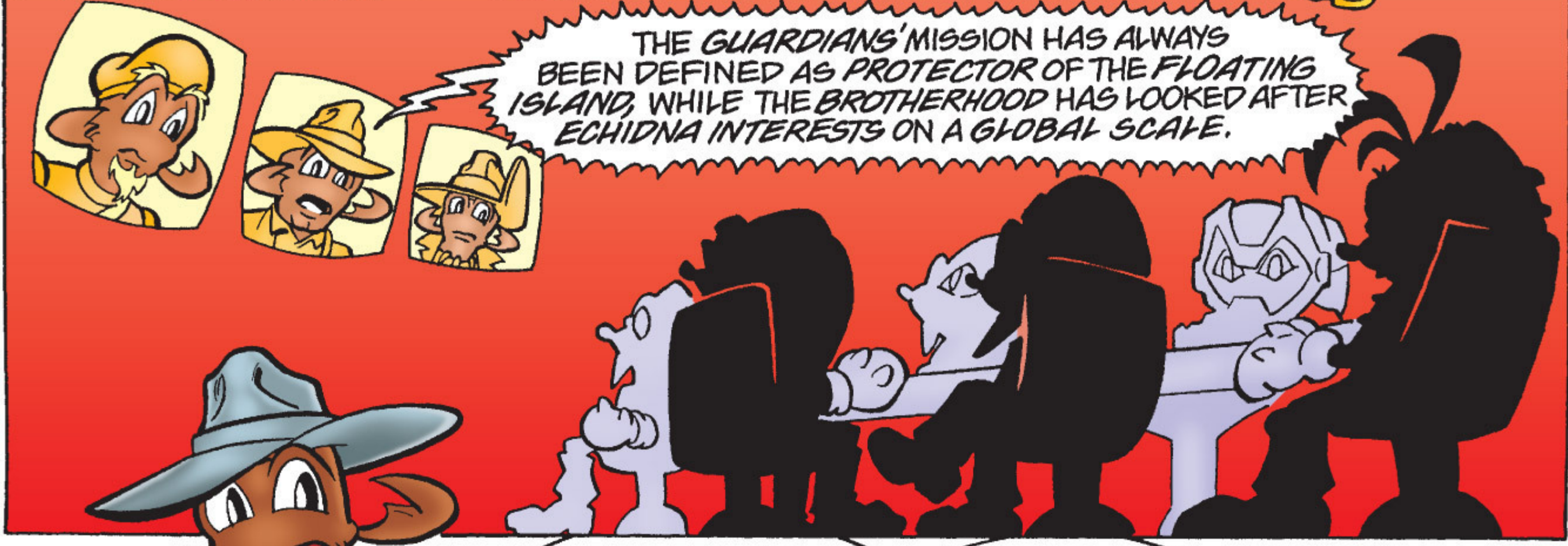


PERHAPS.

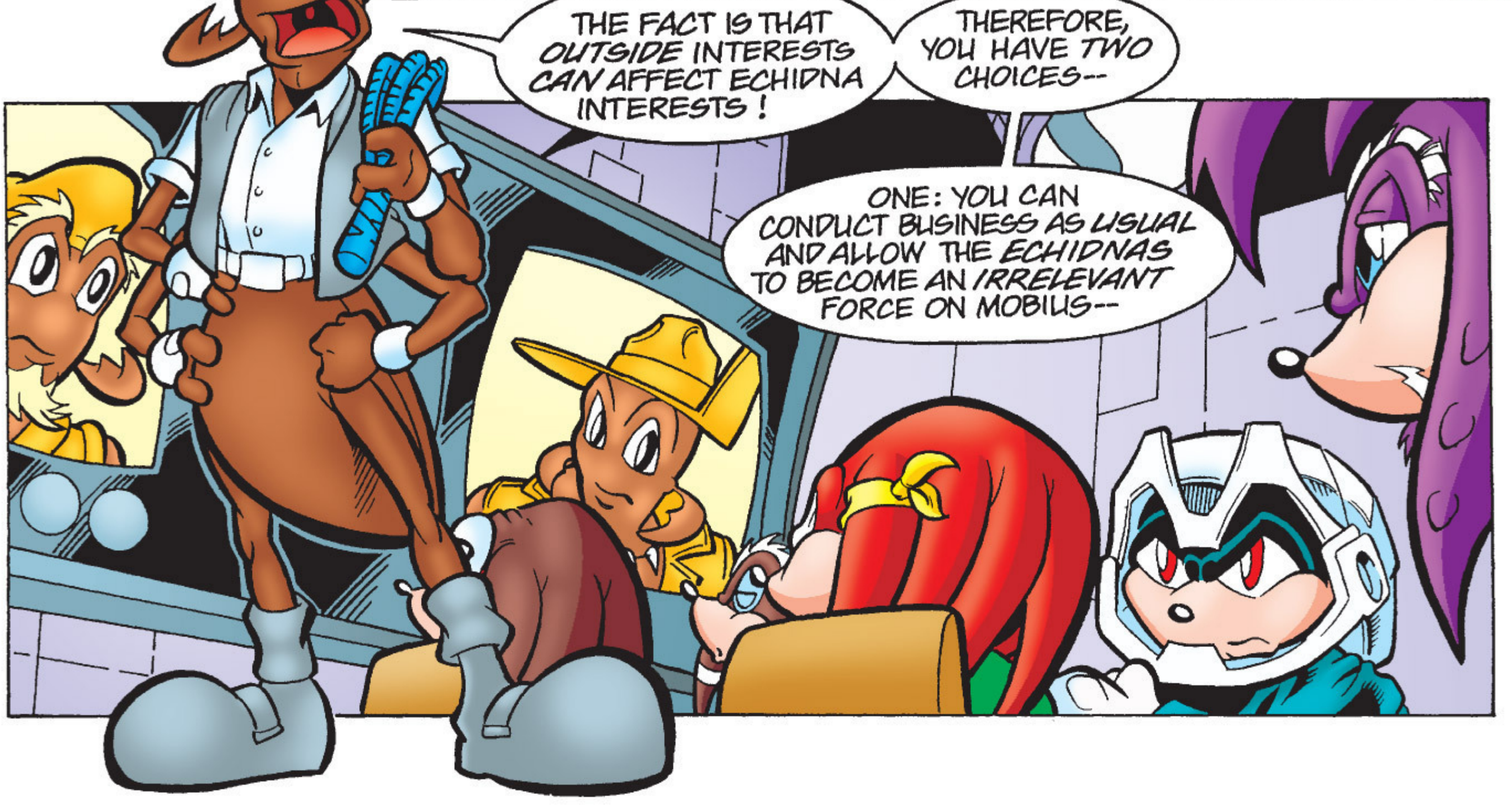
FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, YOU GENTLEMEN FEEL YOUR PURPOSE LACKS FOCUS!

MY FATHER IS RIGHT. WHAT YOU REALLY NEED TO CONSIDER IS WHETHER OR NOT YOUR DUTIES HAVE OUTGROWN YOUR ORIGINAL INTENT!

IN WHAT WAY, SEMPER FIDELIS?



THE GUARDIANS' MISSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEFINED AS PROTECTOR OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, WHILE THE BROTHERHOOD HAS LOOKED AFTER ECHIDNA INTERESTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE.

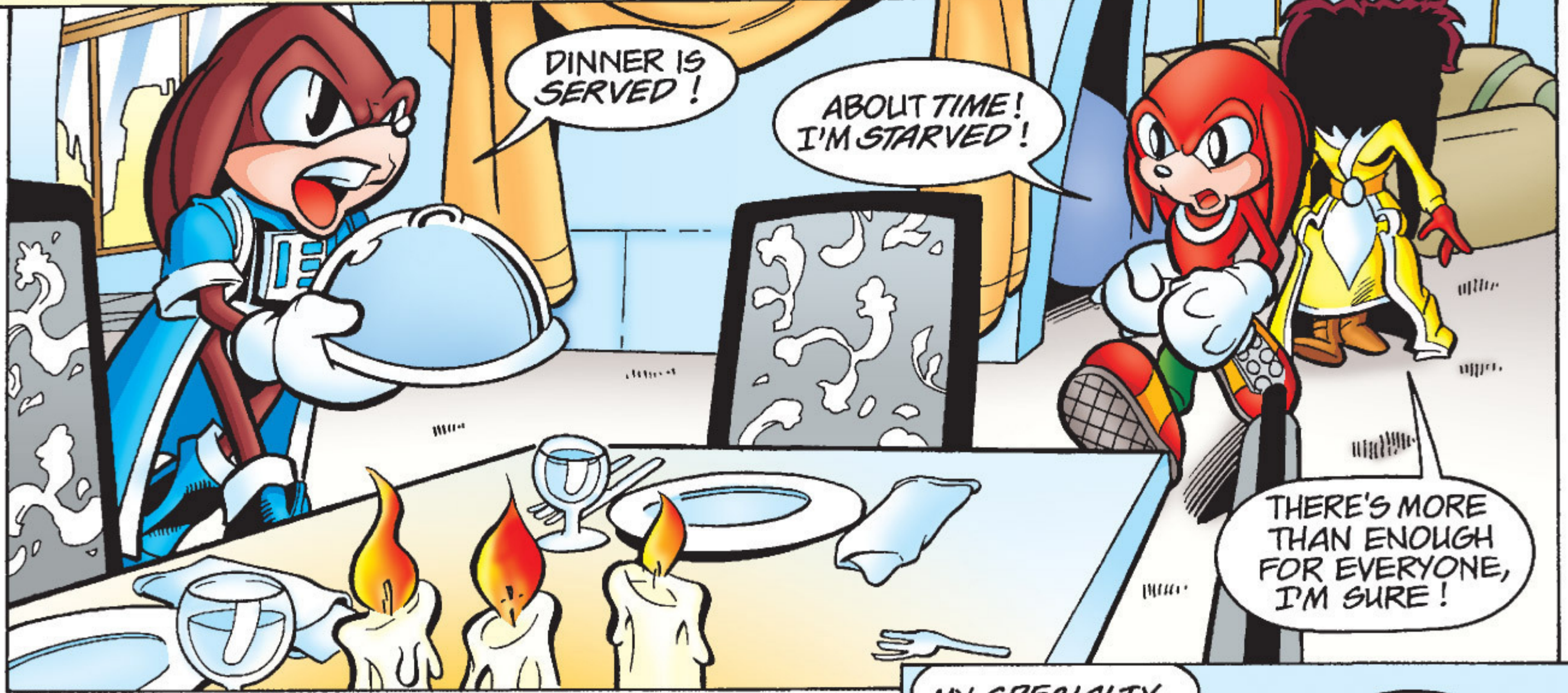


THE FACT IS THAT OUTSIDE INTERESTS CAN AFFECT ECHIDNA INTERESTS!

THEREFORE, YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES--

ONE: YOU CAN CONDUCT BUSINESS AS USUAL AND ALLOW THE ECHIDNAS TO BECOME AN IRRELEVANT FORCE ON MOBILUS--

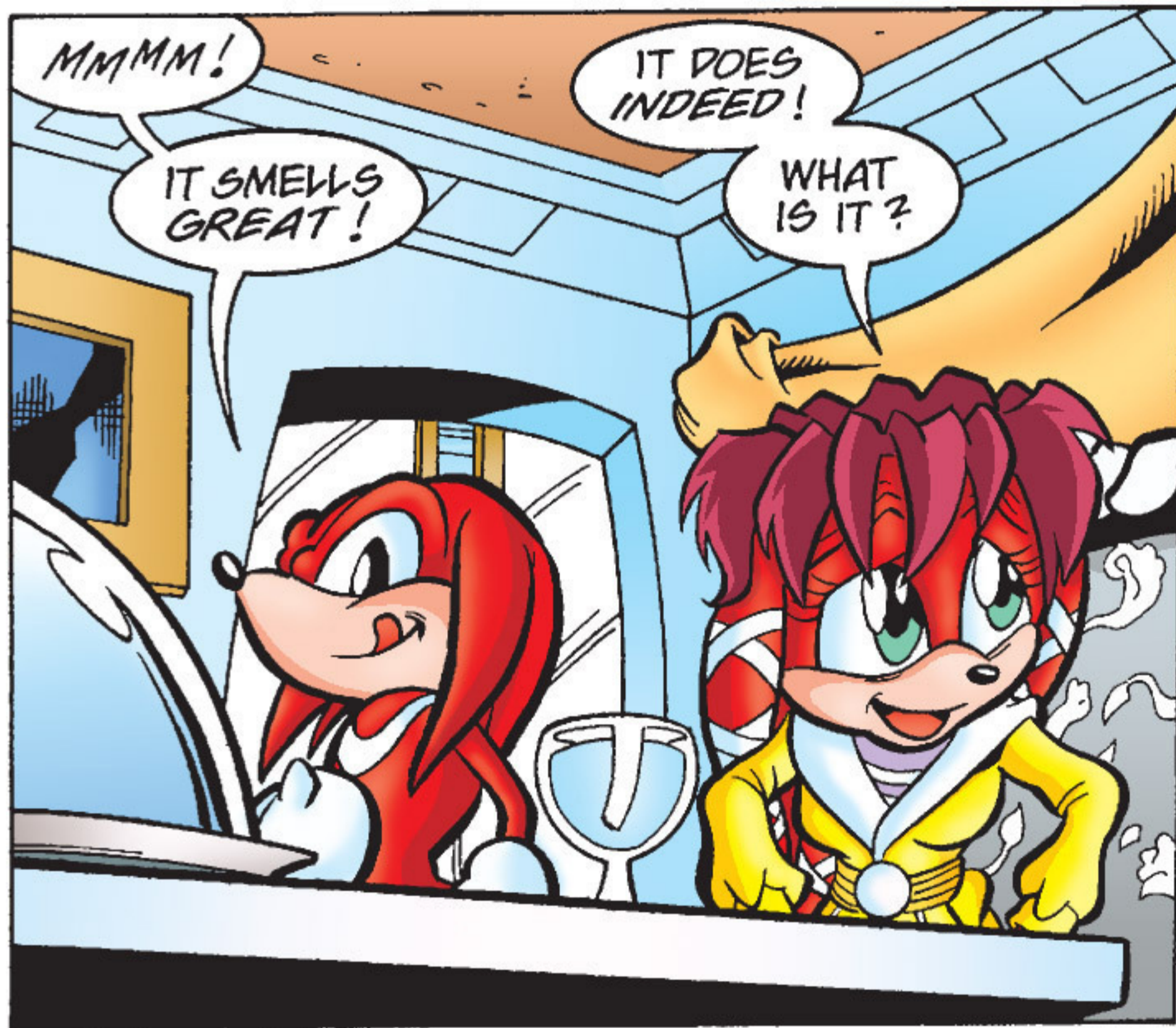
"OR TWO: YOU CAN BECOME A FORCE TO LEAD THE ECHIDNAS AND THE OTHER SPECIES ON THIS PLANET INTO A NEW GOLDEN AGE!"



DINNER IS SERVED!

ABOUT TIME!
I'M STARVED!

THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE, I'M SURE!

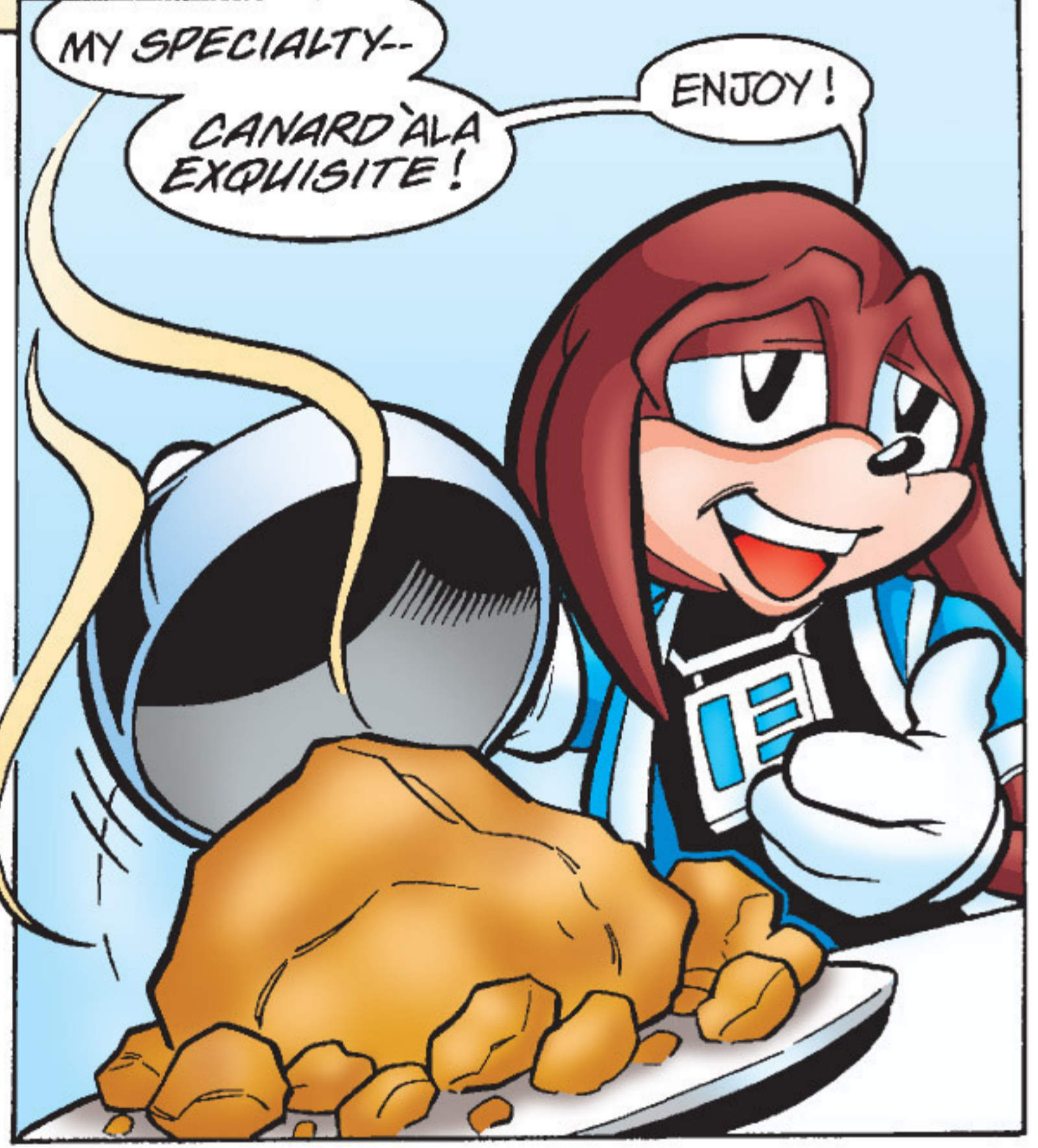


MMMM!

IT SMELLS GREAT!

IT DOES INDEED!

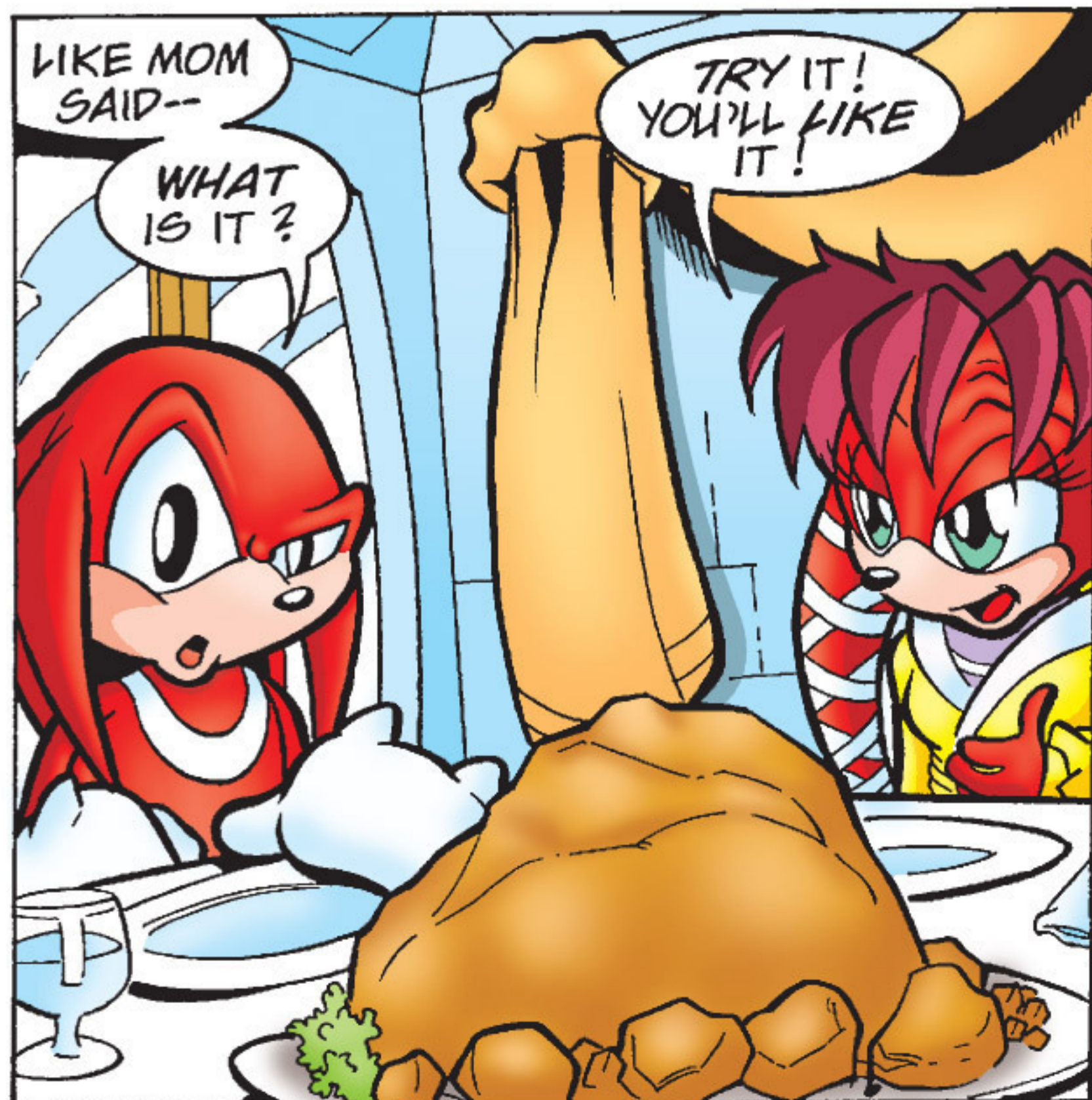
WHAT IS IT?



MY SPECIALTY--

CANARD'ALA EXQUISITE!

ENJOY!



LIKE MOM SAID--

WHAT IS IT?

TRY IT!
YOU'LL LIKE IT!



FAMOUS LAST WORDS!

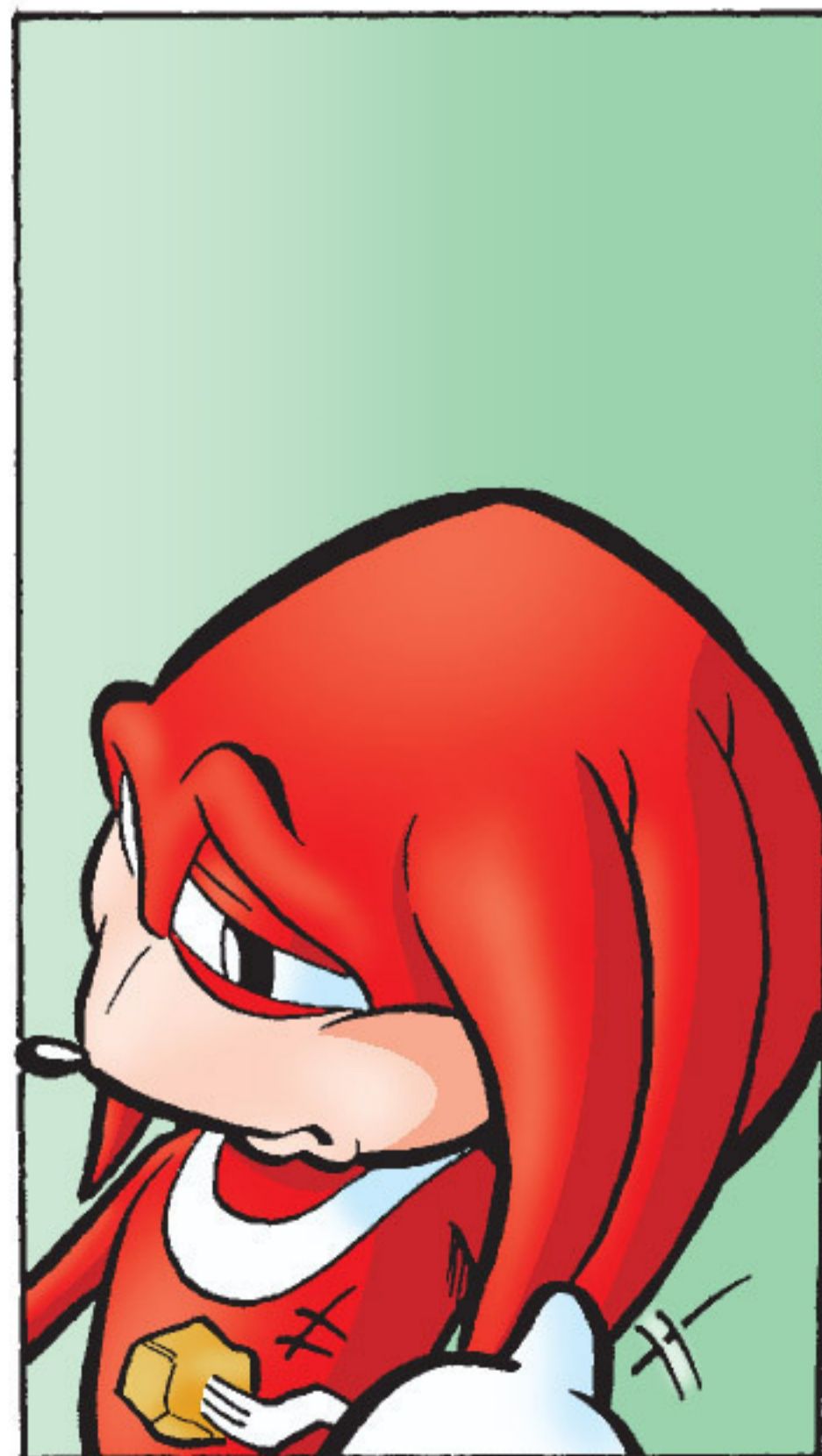
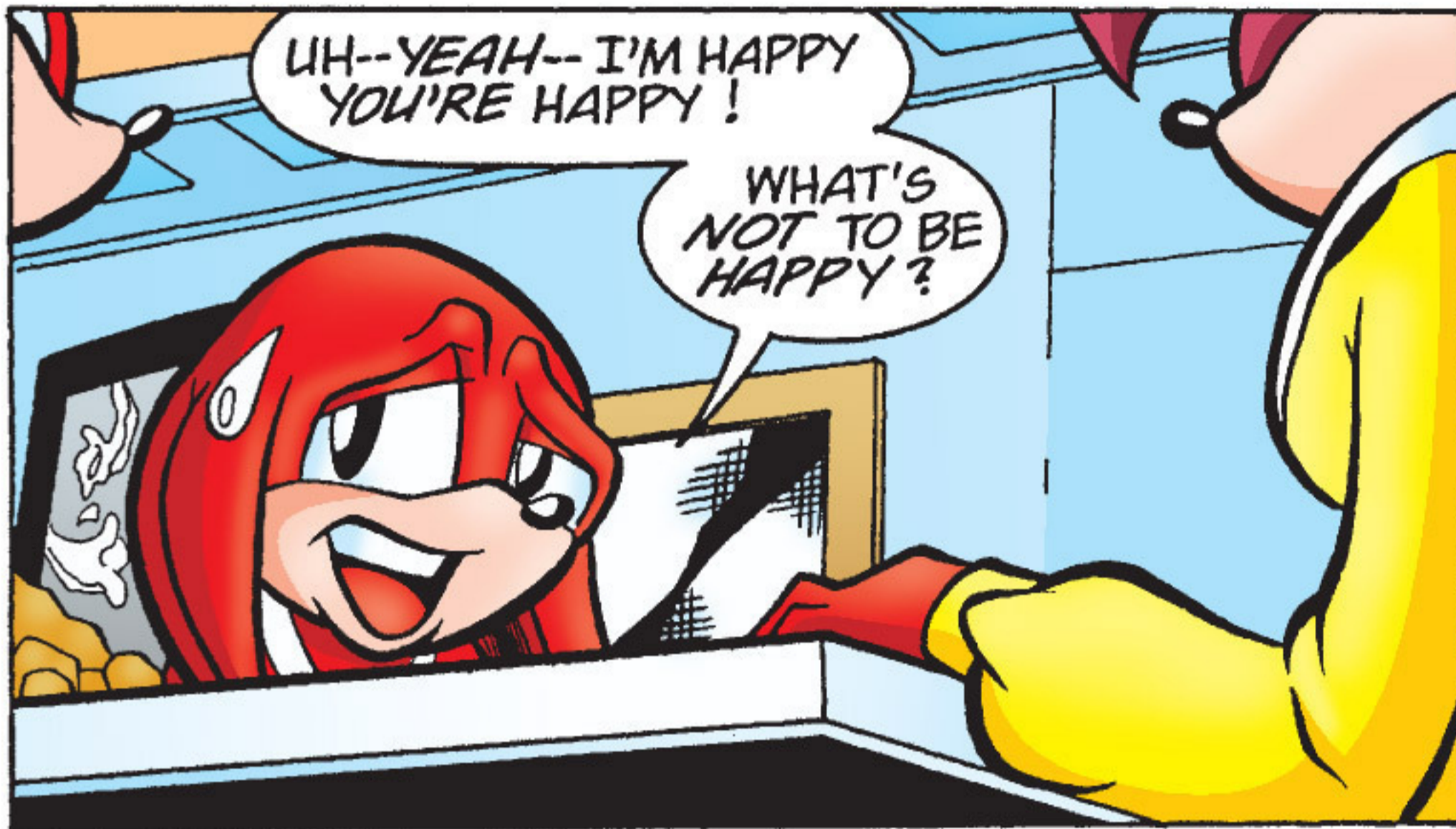
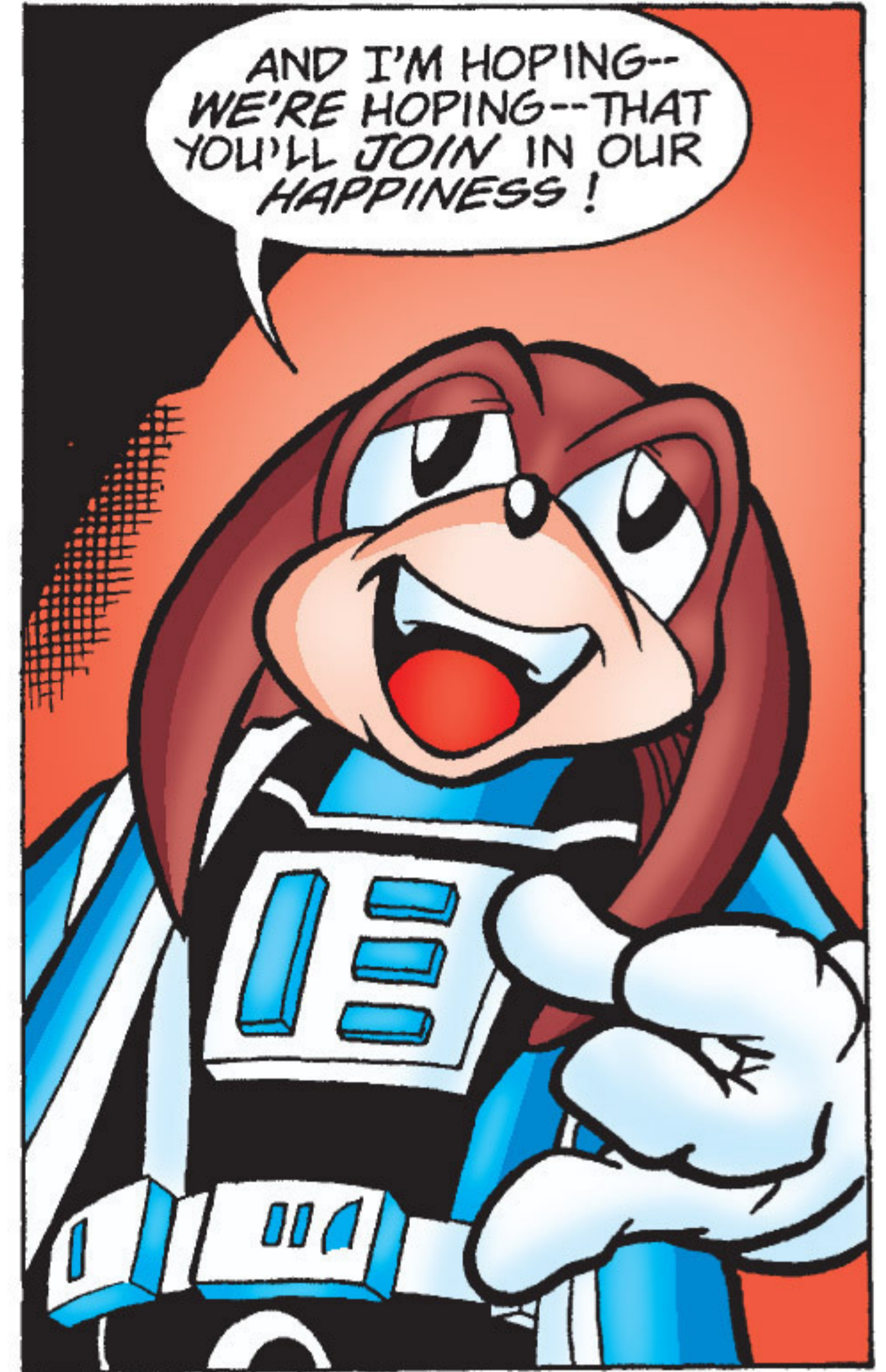
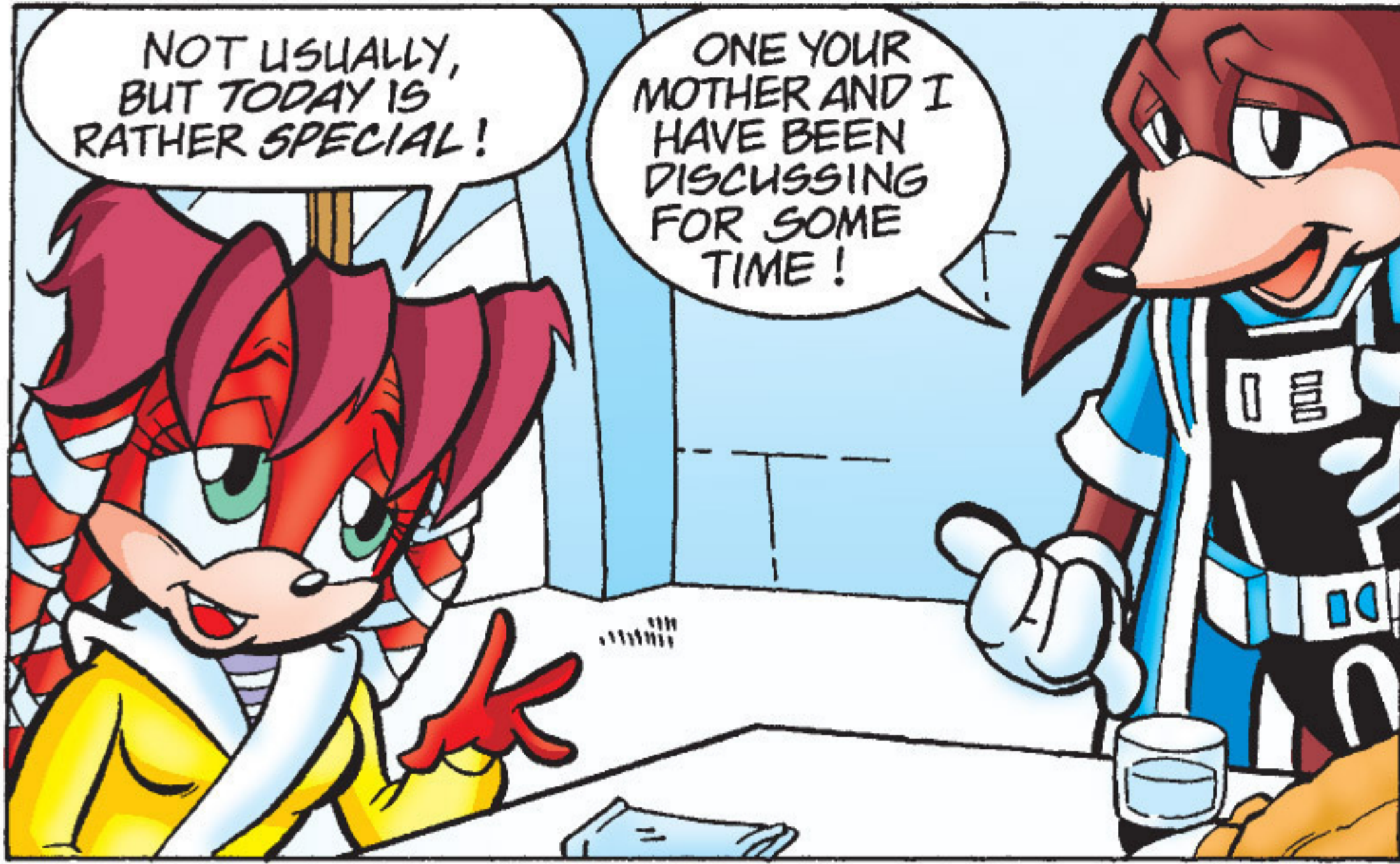
CHOMP!
CHOMP!
CHOMP!

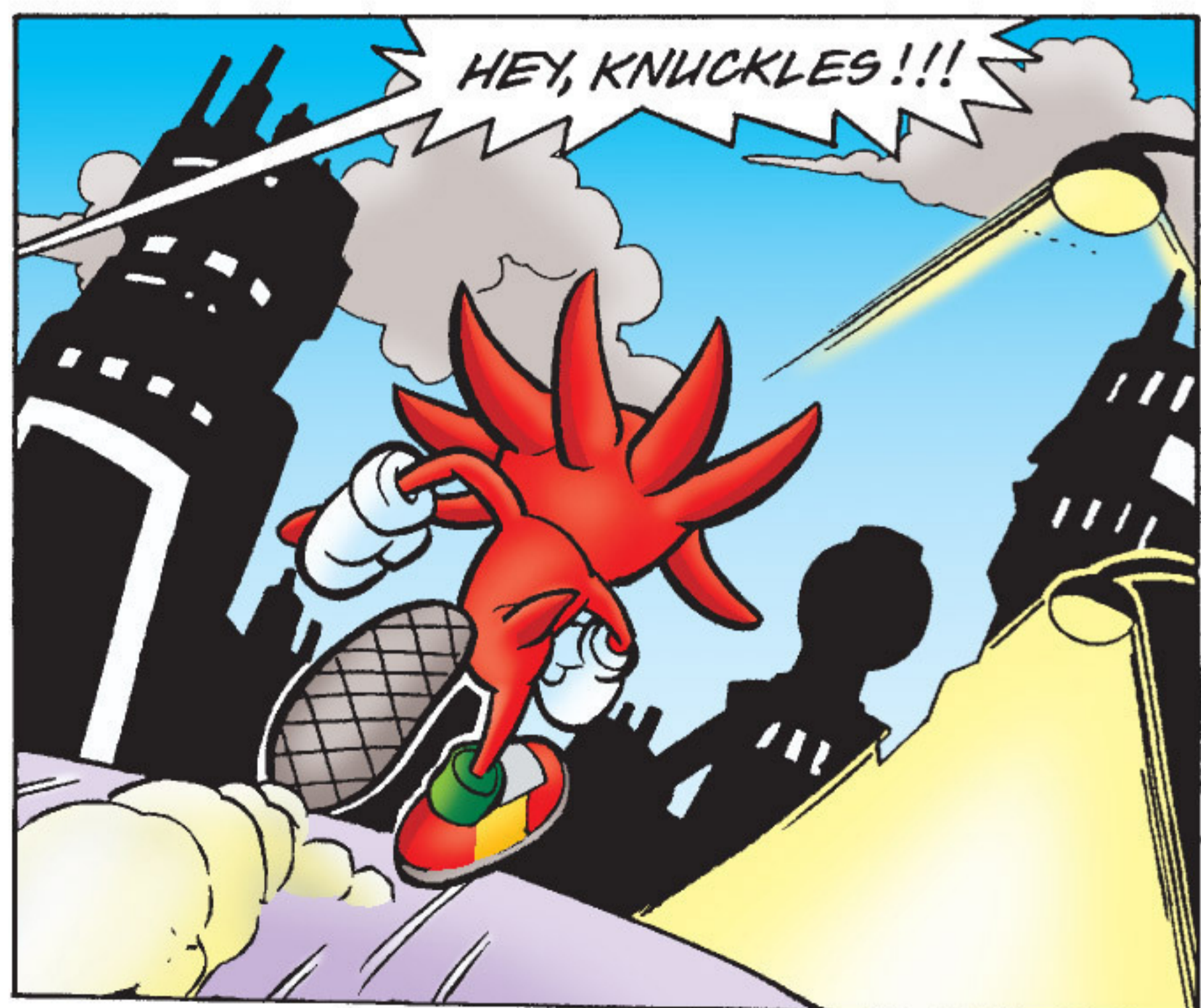
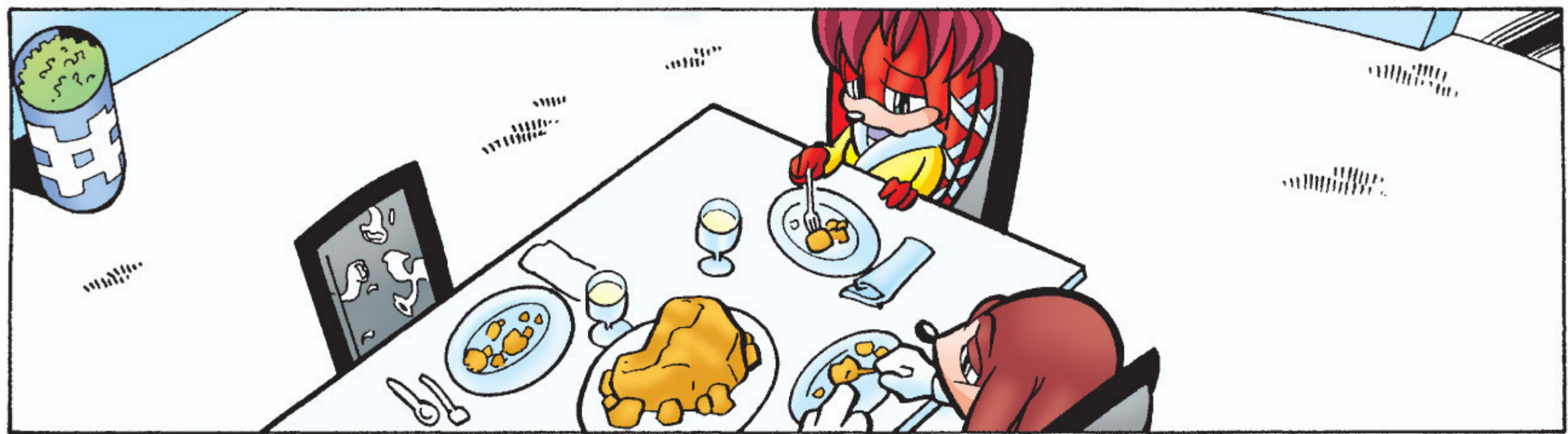
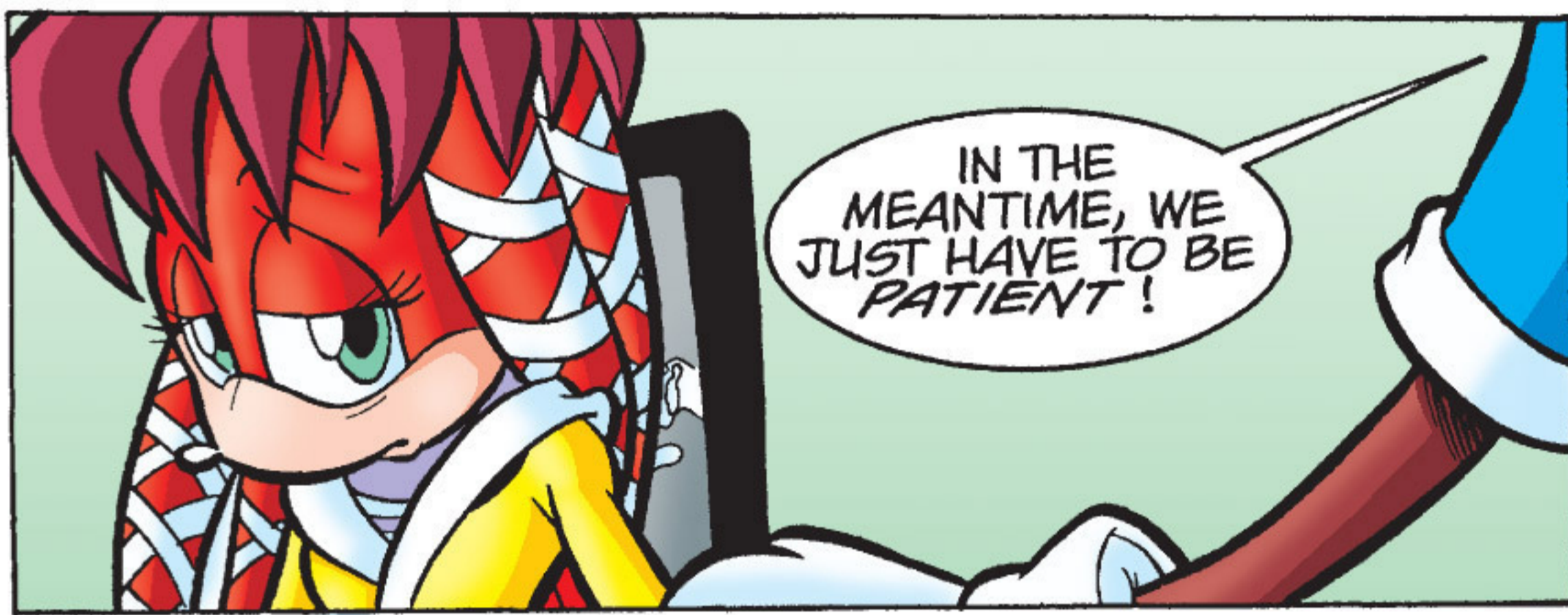
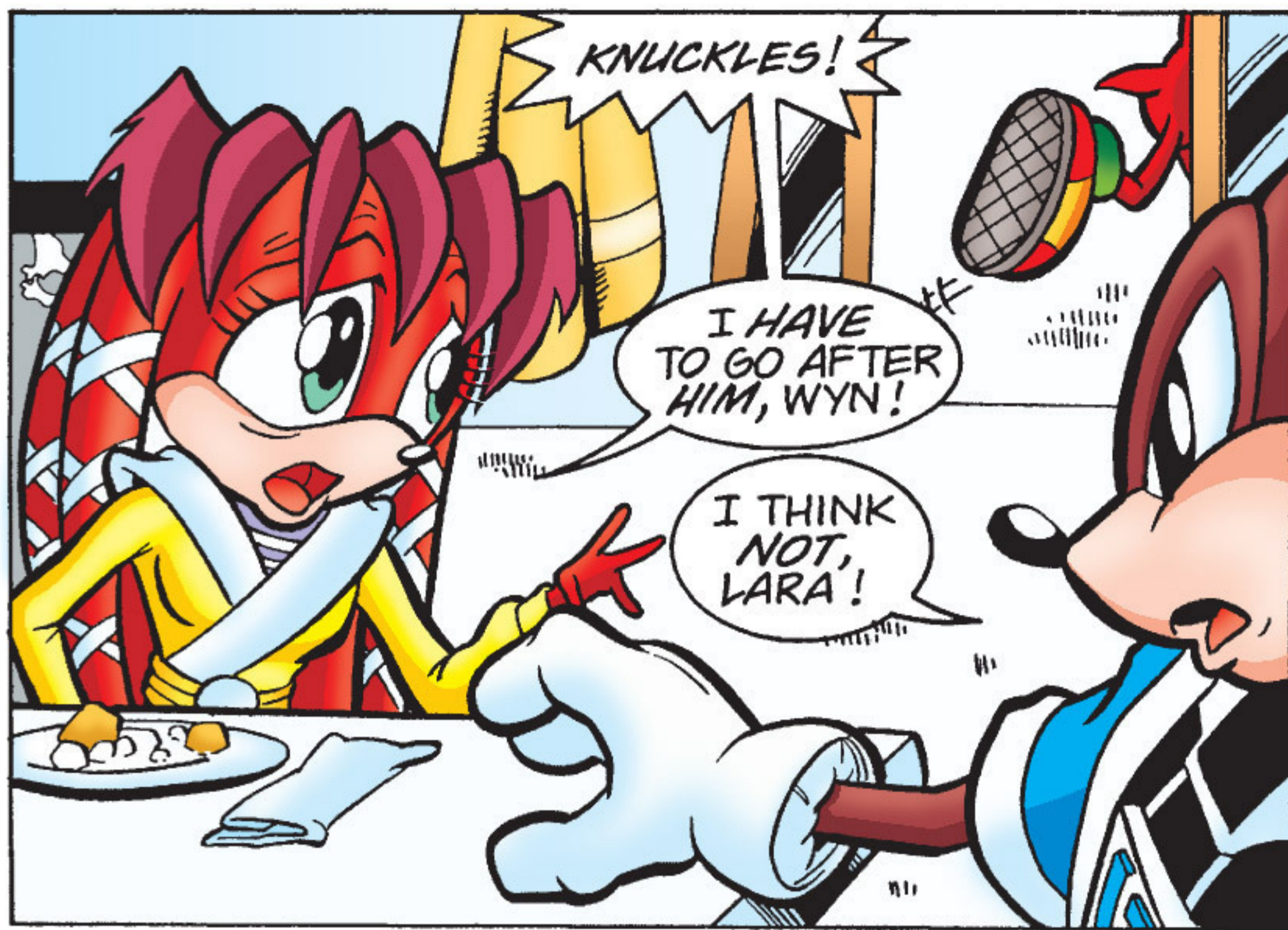
WELL?

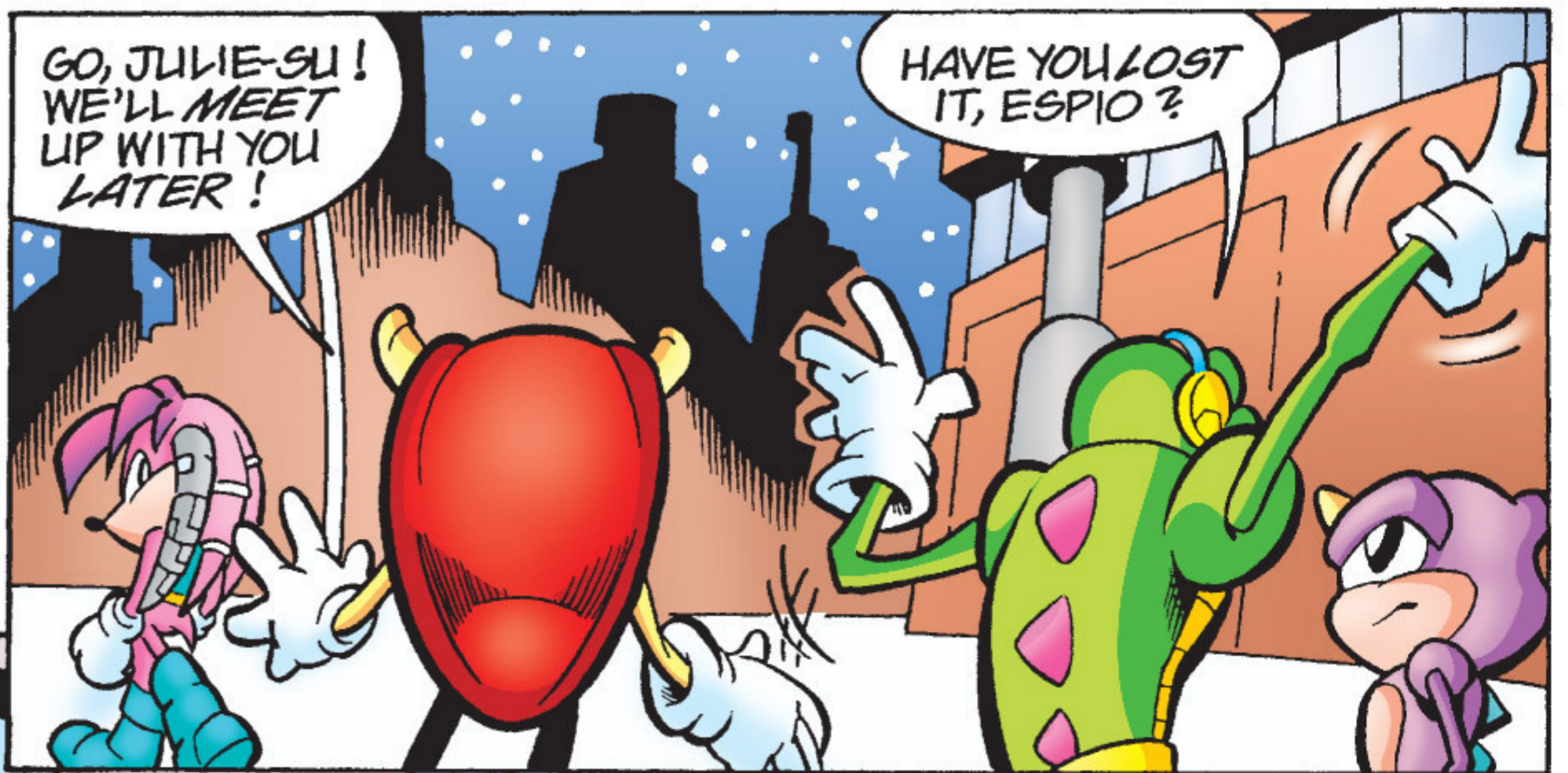
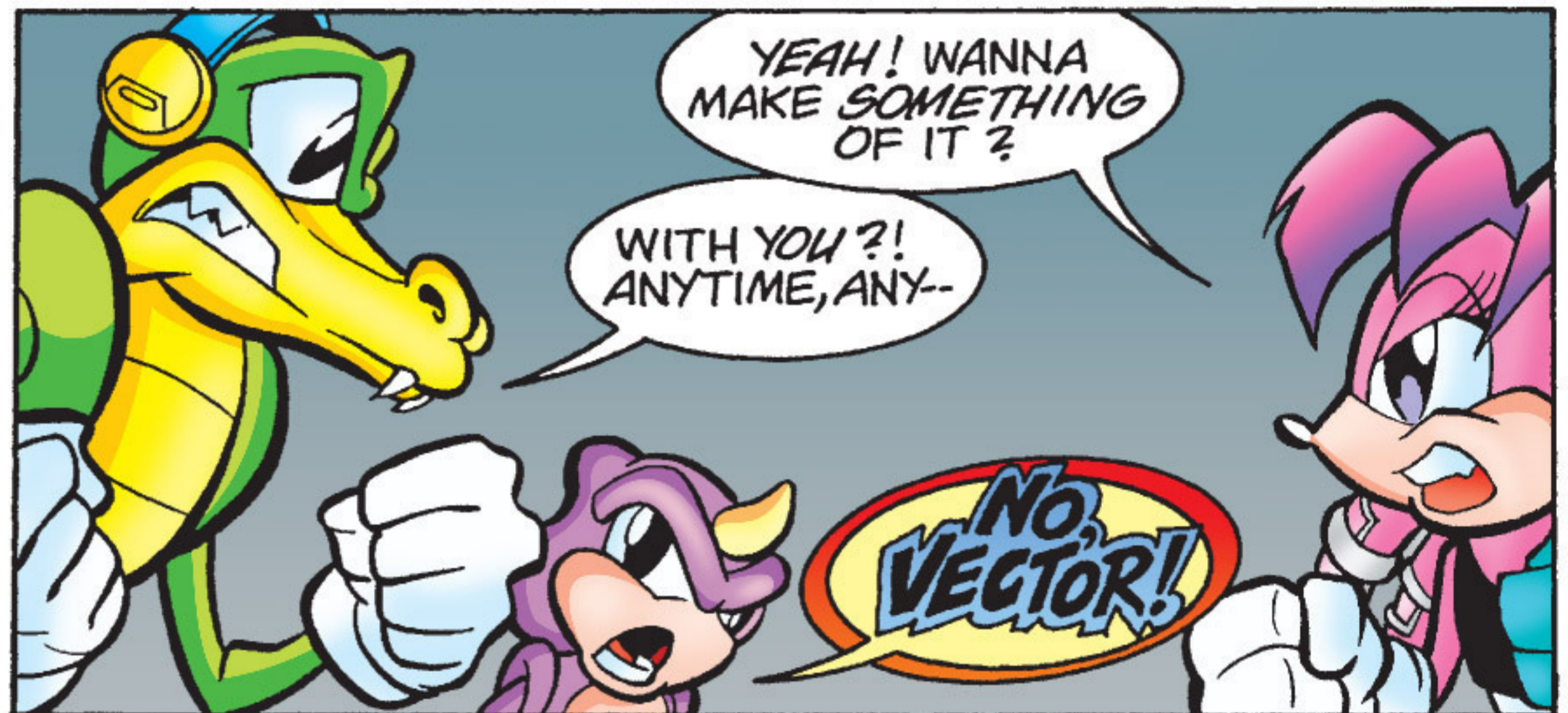
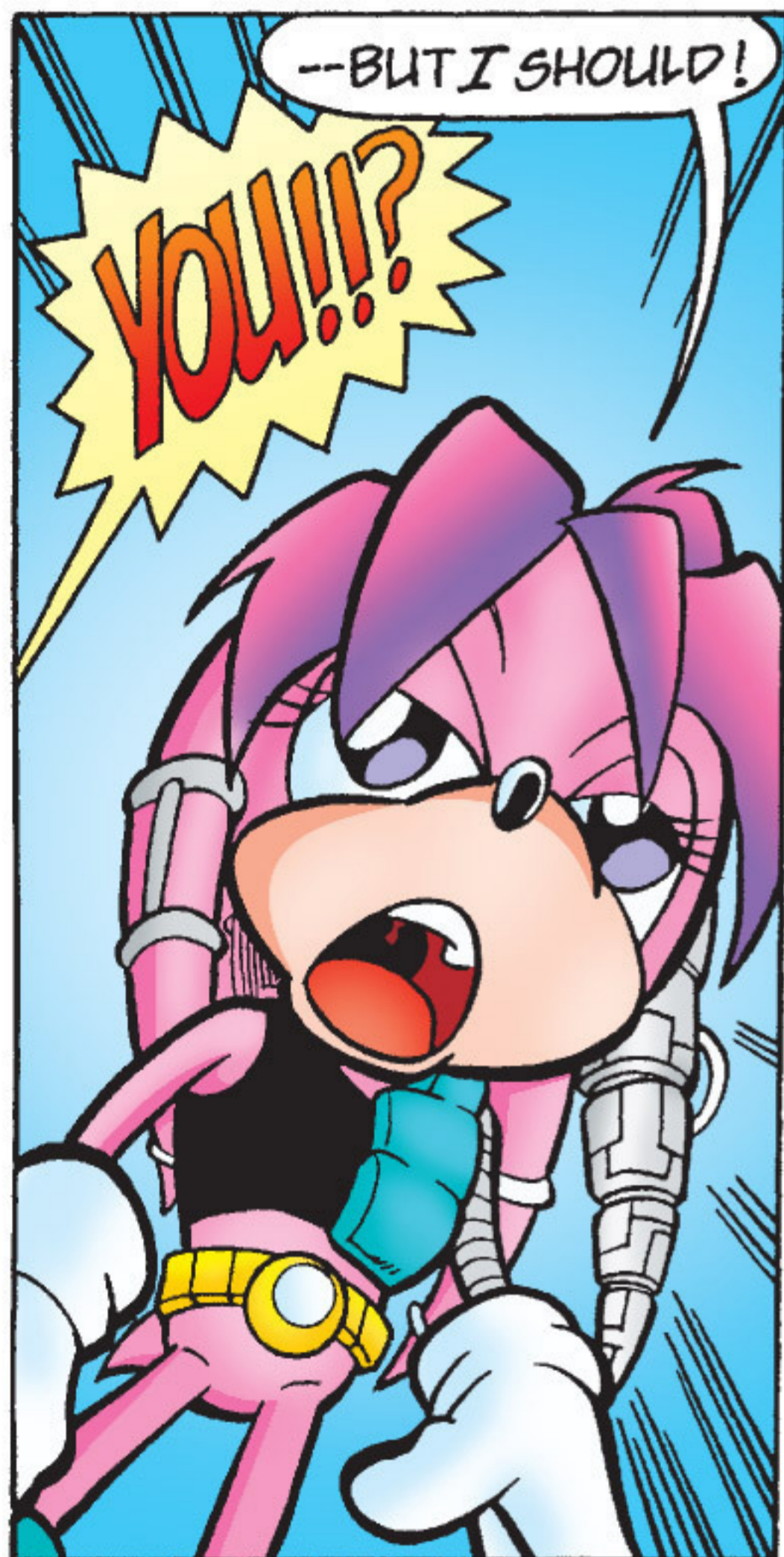
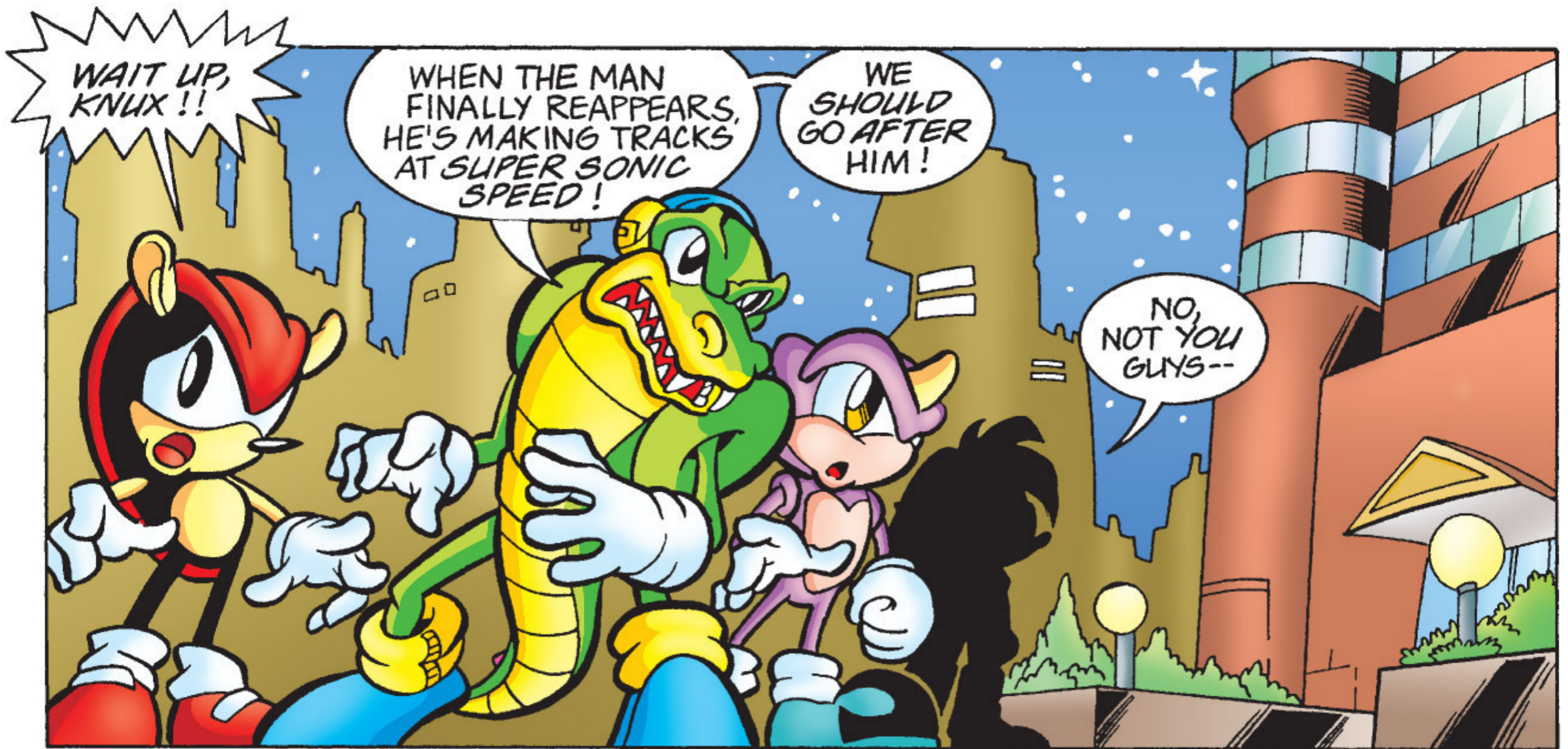


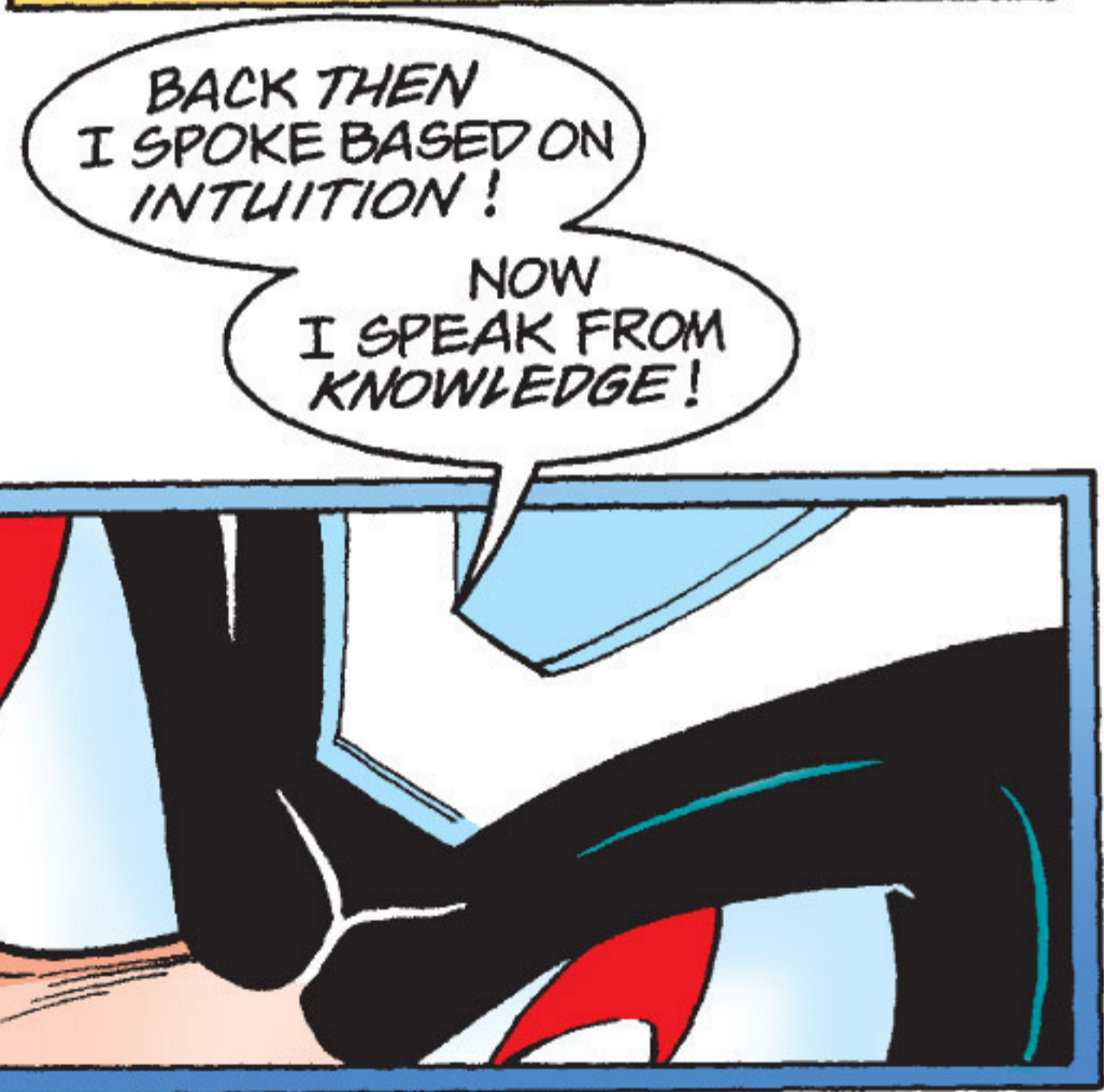
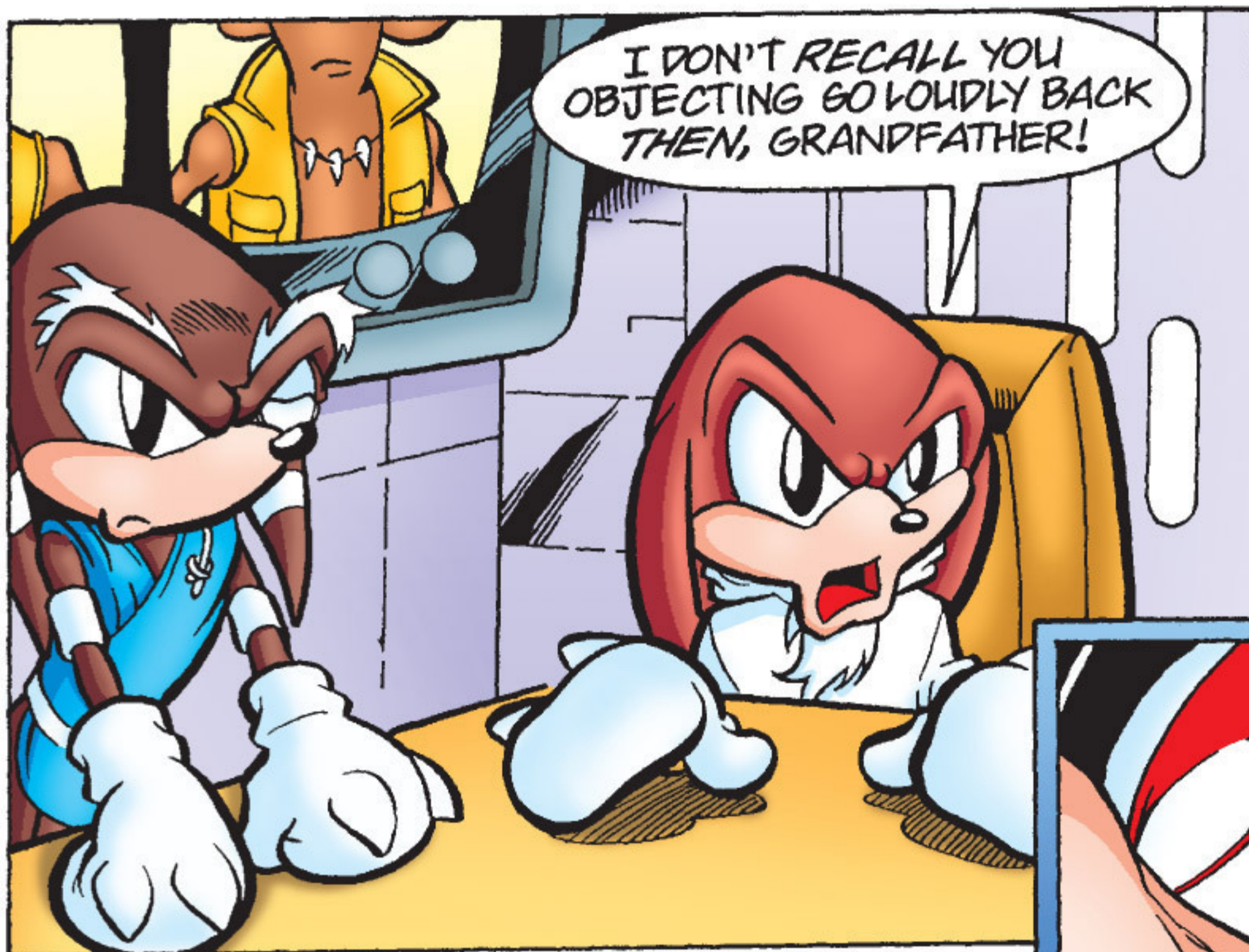
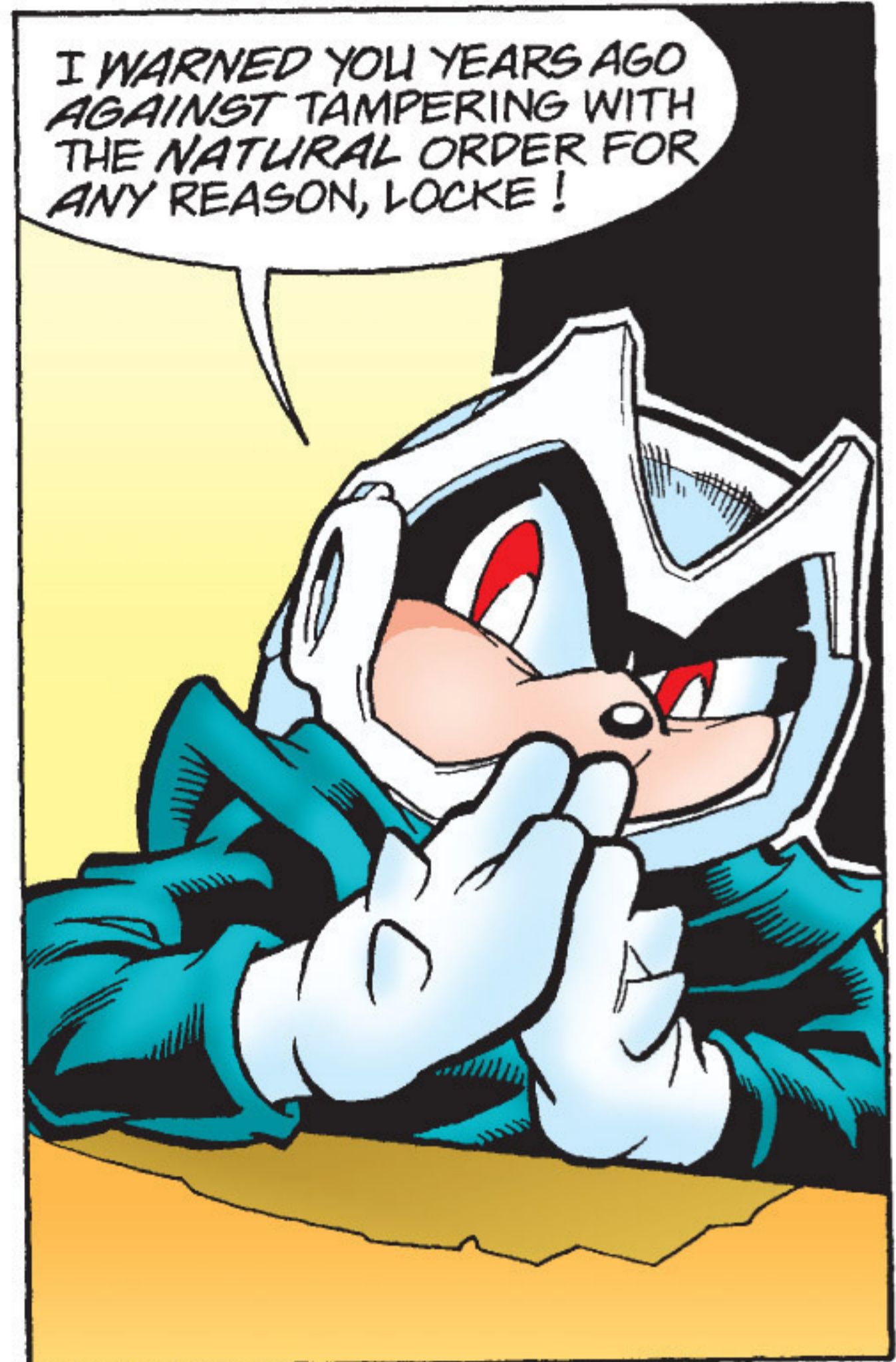
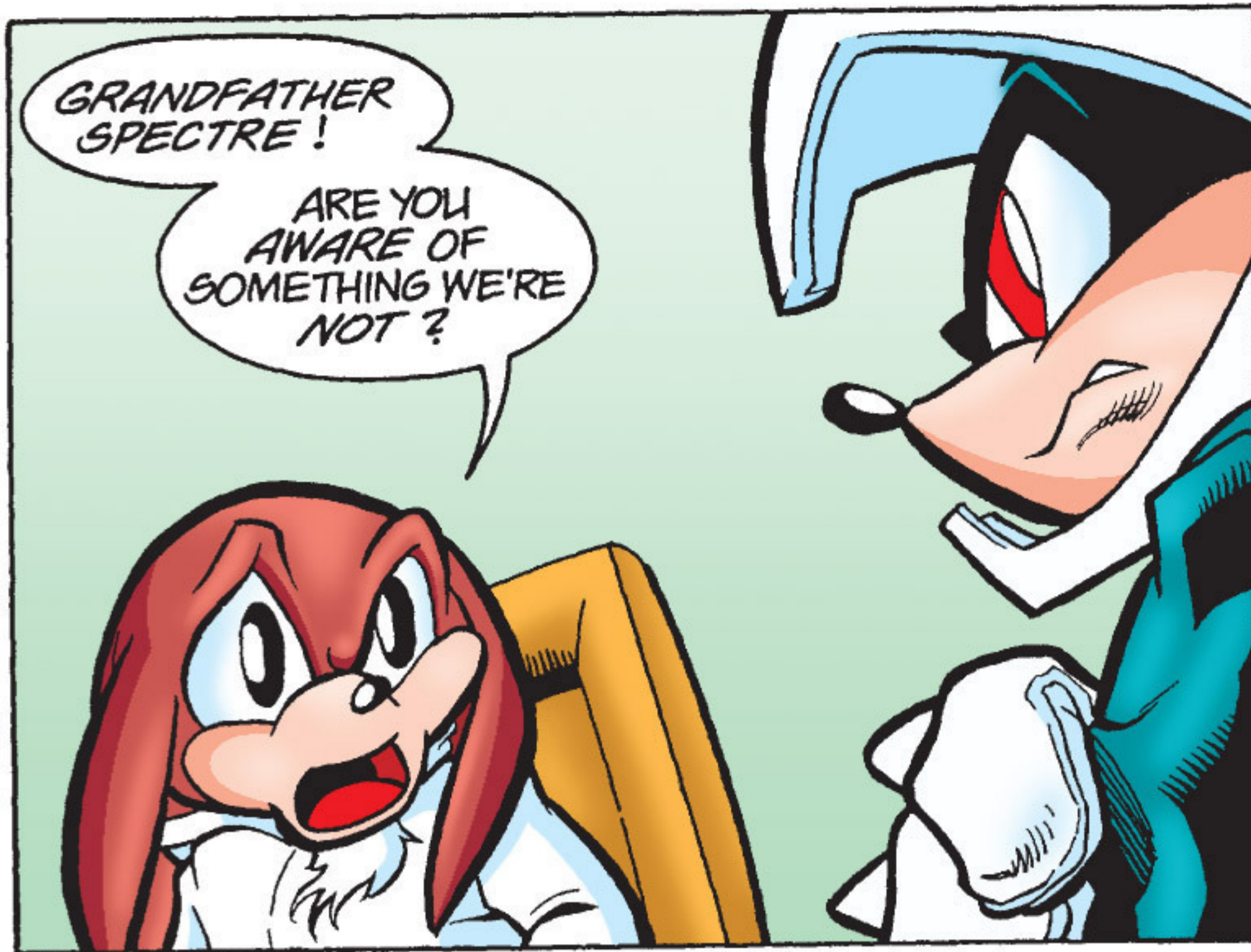
IT'LL DO!

DO YOU ALWAYS EAT THIS FANCY?











" -- FOR US TO CONSIDER KNUCKLES' PROBLEM IN A MORE SERIOUS LIGHT ! "



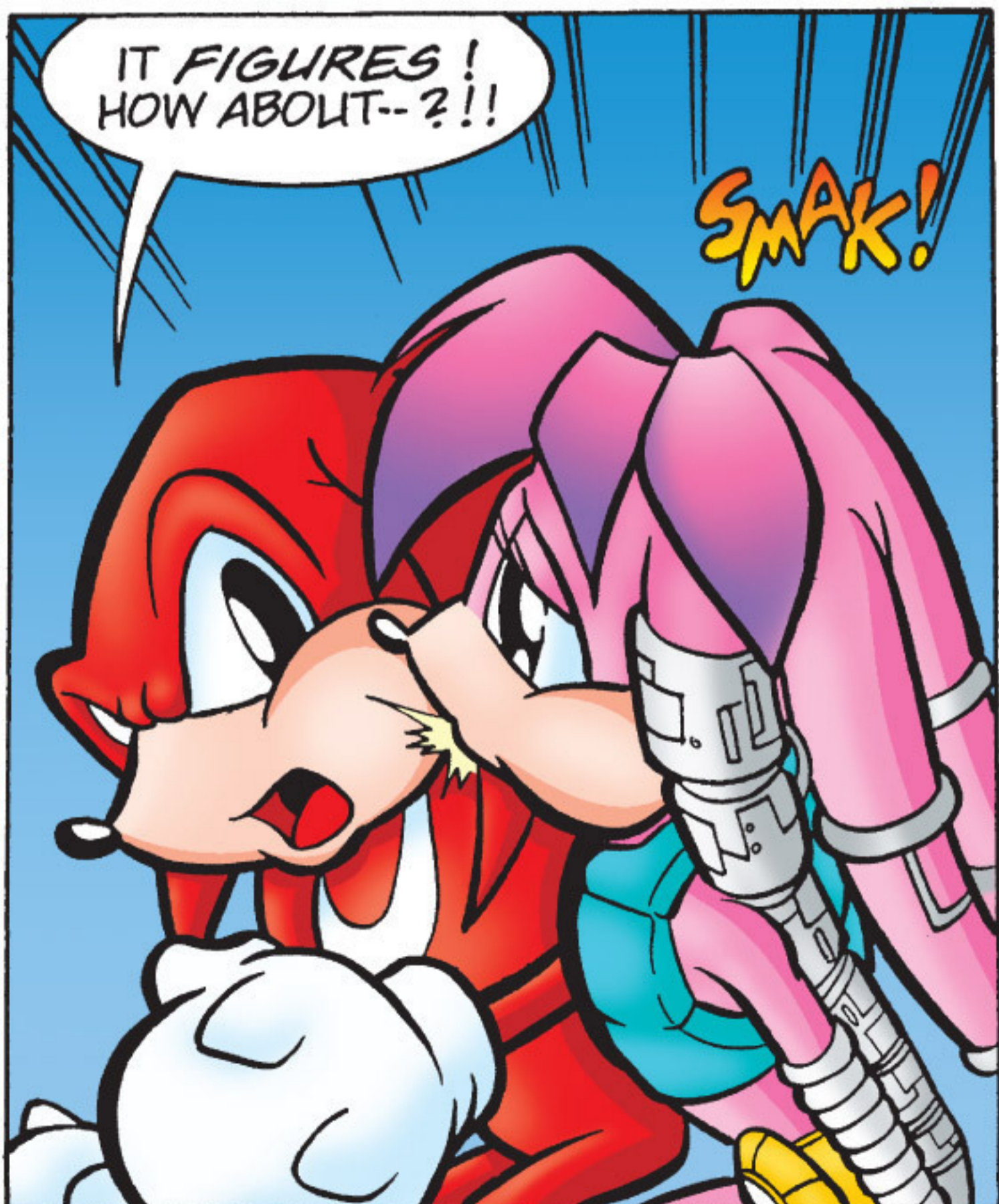
HEY, THERE ! WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COMPANY ?

I'D RATHER BE BY MYSELF, THANKS!



YOU DON'T LISTEN VERY WELL, DO YOU ?

ESPECIALLY NOT TO YOU, THAT'S FOR SURE !



IT FIGURES ! HOW ABOUT-- ? !!

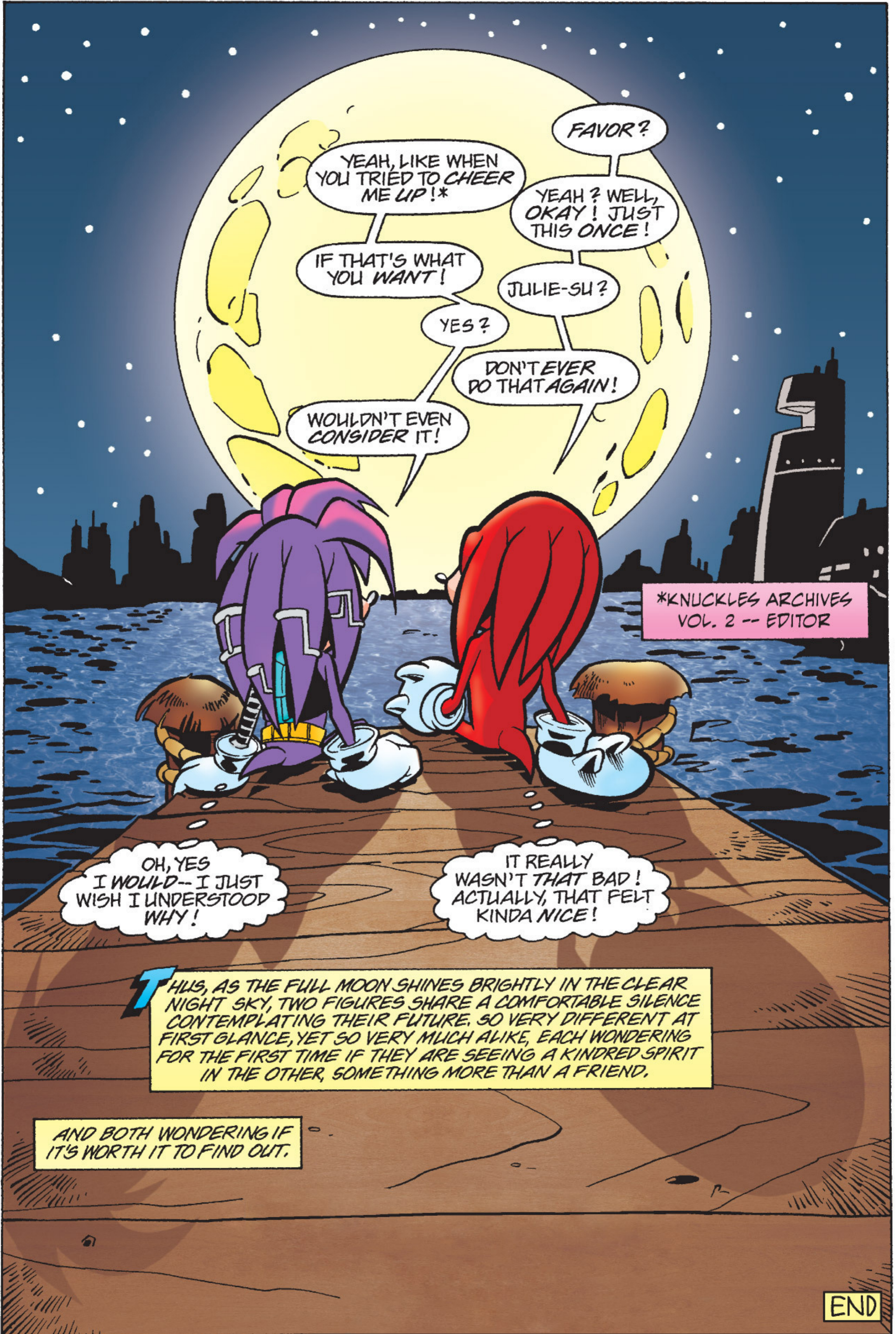
SMACK!



WHY DID YOU GO AND DO THAT FOR ?

I'M NOT SURE I EVEN LIKE YOU !

I WAS SIMPLY RETURNING YOU THE FAVOR !



YEAH, LIKE WHEN YOU TRIED TO CHEER ME UP!*

FAVOR?

YEAH? WELL, OKAY! JUST THIS ONCE!

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT!

JULIE-SU?

YES?

DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN!

WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT!

*KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL. 2 -- EDITOR

OH, YES I WOULD-- I JUST WISH I UNDERSTOOD WHY!

IT REALLY WASN'T THAT BAD! ACTUALLY, THAT FELT KINDA NICE!

THUS, AS THE FULL MOON SHINES BRIGHTLY IN THE CLEAR NIGHT SKY, TWO FIGURES SHARE A COMFORTABLE SILENCE CONTEMPLATING THEIR FUTURE, SO VERY DIFFERENT AT FIRST GLANCE, YET SO VERY MUCH ALIKE, EACH WONDERING FOR THE FIRST TIME IF THEY ARE SEEING A KINDRED SPIRIT IN THE OTHER, SOMETHING MORE THAN A FRIEND,

AND BOTH WONDERING IF IT'S WORTH IT TO FIND OUT.

END